World History Name:

Mr. Murray Date:

Who Was Achilles? Block:

What are we to do with Achilles, a man so horrifying and violent that even the Greeks were terrified of their own hero? Achilles not only sickened and shocked the Trojans, but he also appalled his Greek allies. What are we to make of a man who didn’t even look Greek, but instead was blonde and blue-eyed? Who was this hero? Where did he come from? Who was this man who was an absolute predator, a hunter-killer, who was fearless and loved to kill more than anything else in the world? According to Homer, Achilles was the perfect killing machine, a man so dominant in battle, “that his enemies ran before him like scared little children,”? What do we do with a man who seemed to enjoy desecrating and dismembering the corpses of those he killed? Gouging out eyeballs, drinking wine from their skulls, wearing skins of human flesh, and raping enemy prisoners, men and women alike, were pastimes of Achilles. Why would a man so dominant in battle decide to drag the body of a fallen prince around the walls of the city over and over again, just to shock and nauseate the prince’s wife and father? How are we to understand a man with an enormous sexual appetite? Achilles would seduce and bed any woman in his reach, including the wives, daughters, and mothers of his closest friends. Achilles was a man so sexually powerful that he could have sex for hours on end, with multiple partners, without interruption; he lusted after men and women with equal desire and passion, unbothered by whose wife or whose son he was ravishing. Who was this man, this blonde, god-like figure, who loved to kill, and loved to love? Who was this man who would sit in his tent like a spoiled, rotten, little child day after day, while his Greek friends and allies died by the hundreds? Why would this man turn his back on his friends and sit alone in his tent all day long drinking himself into an alcoholic stupor because of some Trojan priestess?

Use specific examples from the film *Troy* to answer the following questions:

1. What are patterned behaviors of Achilles?
2. What do you believe causes those behaviors?
3. In your opinion, what is the major problem with Achilles?
4. In your opinion, what is a possible solution for Achilles?
5. *Hamartia* is a fatal flaw. What is Achilles’ *hamartia*?
6. *Extra Credit: Explain at least ten examples of ego state transactions seen in Troy.*