

ASCANIUS: THE YOUTH CLASSICS
INSTITUTE

EUREKA CONFERENCE: TEACHING THE
ANCIENT WORLD IN THE
ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

12 MAY 2012

NOT QUITE ACHILLES –
ANCIENT HISTORY,
LITERATURE, AND
MYTHOLOGY THROUGH
INTERACTIVE FICTION

ED DEHORATIUS
WAYLAND HIGH SCHOOL
WAYLAND, MA

FOLLOWYOURFATES@GMAIL.COM





Overview / Outline

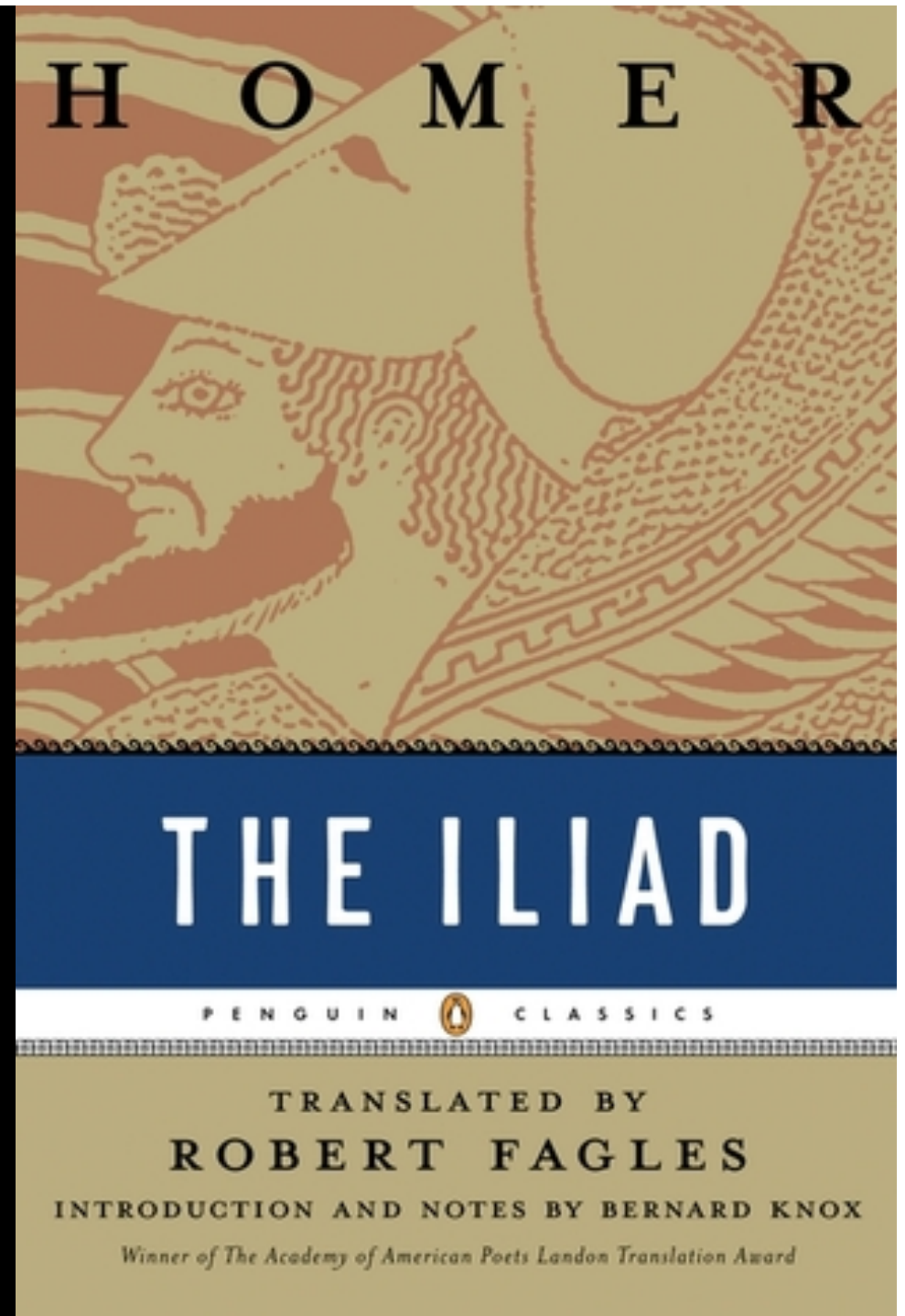
- pre-reading quiz
- the text
- some history & background
- in the classroom
- reviews / assessments
- post-reading quiz

What is Interactive Fiction?

- written in 2nd person
- reader presented with choices
- each choice yields a different narrative path

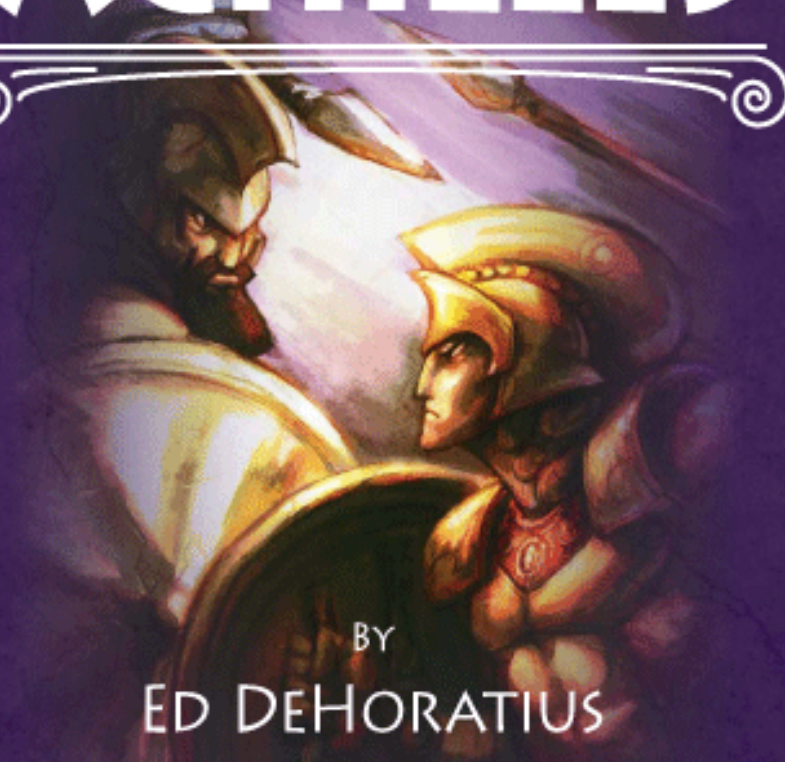


WHEN DID
YOU LAST
READ THE
ILIAD?



FOLLOW YOUR FATES
PRESENTS

THE WRATH OF ACHILLES

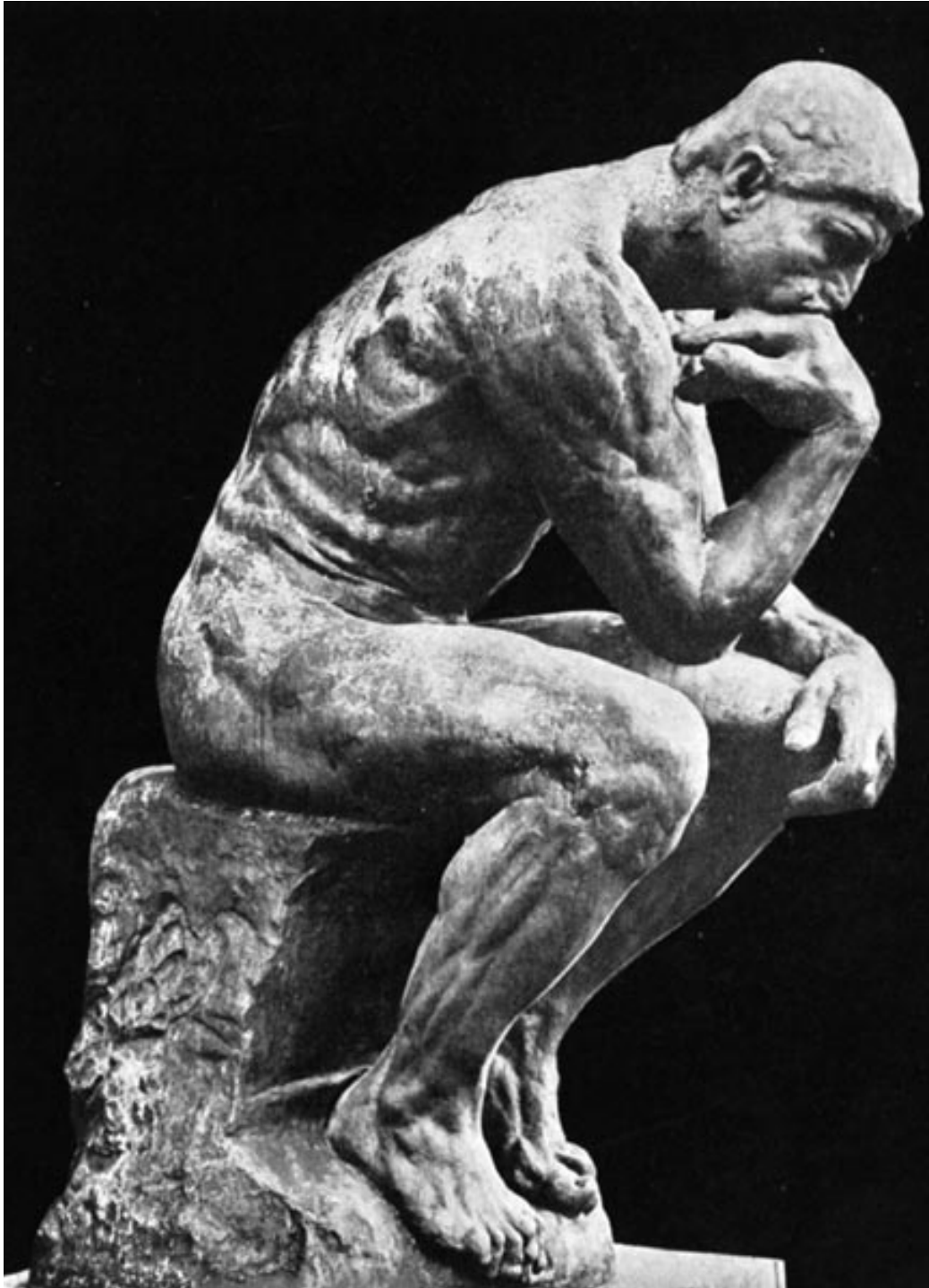


BY

ED DEHORATIUS

ILLUSTRATED BY

BRIAN DELANDRO HARDISON

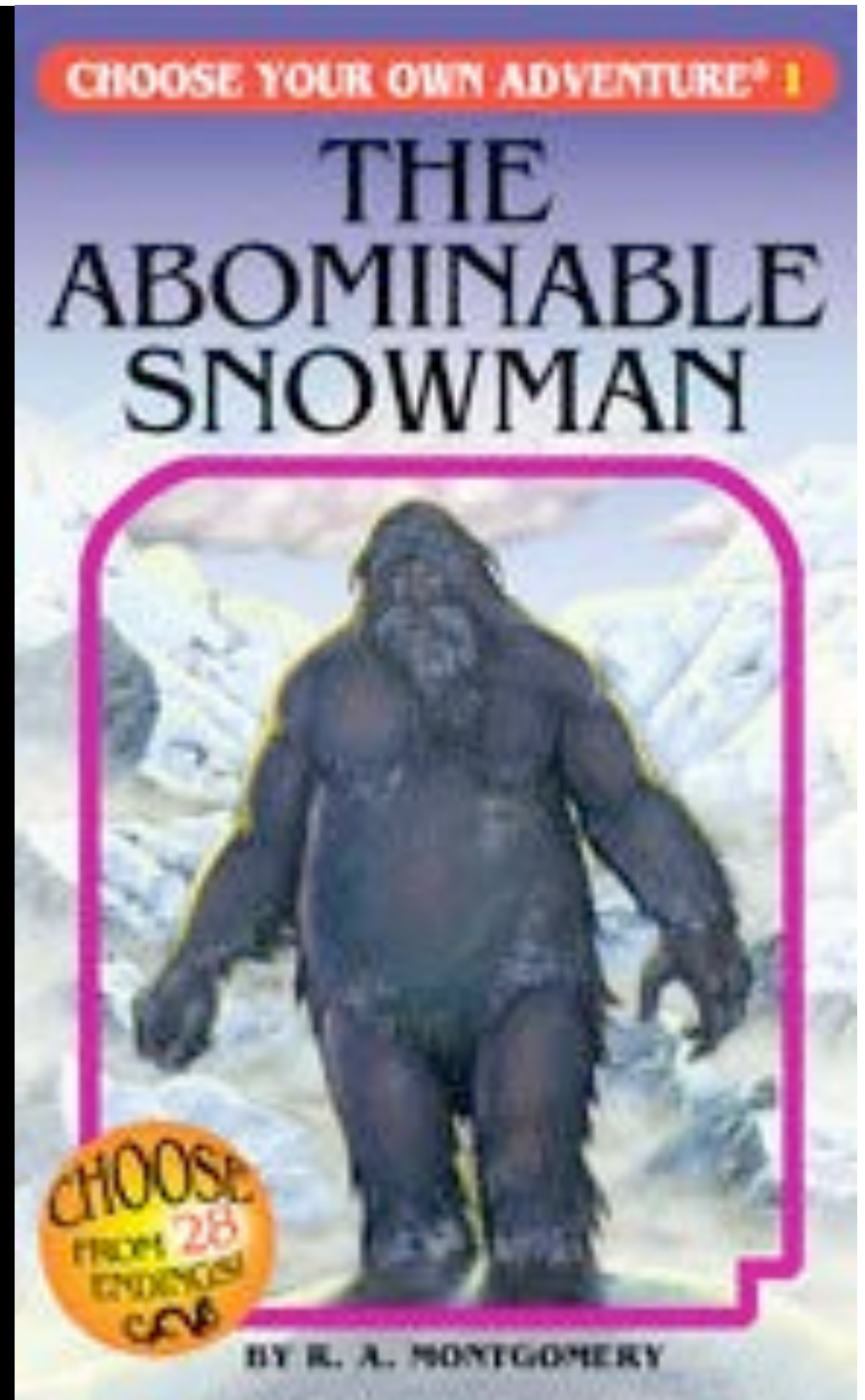


WHY CYOA?

Impact in Education (from cyoa.com)

“CYOA has been cited by multiple educators as a uniquely effective method for helping students learn to read.”

“The series has documented popular appeal for kids as well as specific appeal for the reluctant reader population due to the interactivity.”



CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE®

HOME CYOA ON FACEBOOK SHOP BY SERIES SHOP BY GENRE SHOP BY READING LEVEL BOX SETS EVERYTHING ELSE Search...

Favorites

Bestsellers

New Releases

By Series

Classics

Dragonlarks

Golden Path

eBooks

Vintage

CYOA en español

Hardcovers/Library Editions

By Reading Level

Kindergarten

Grade 1

Grade 2

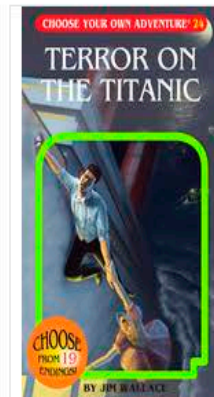
Grade 3

Grade 4

Grade 5

Grade 6/7

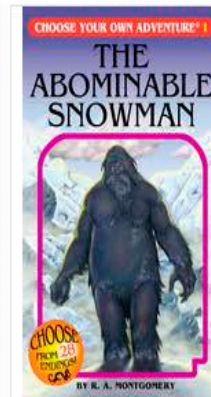
Featured Items



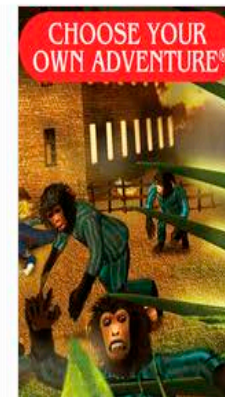
Terror on the Titanic
\$6.99



Space and Beyond eBook
\$0.00



The Abominable Snowman
\$6.99



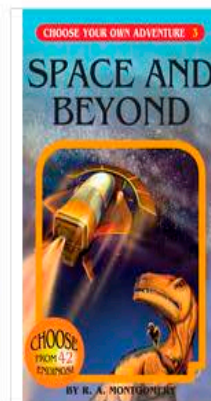
House of Danger eBook
\$0.00



4 Book Box Set #1
\$21.99



4 Book Box Set #2
\$21.99



Space and Beyond



Your Very Own Robot
\$7.99

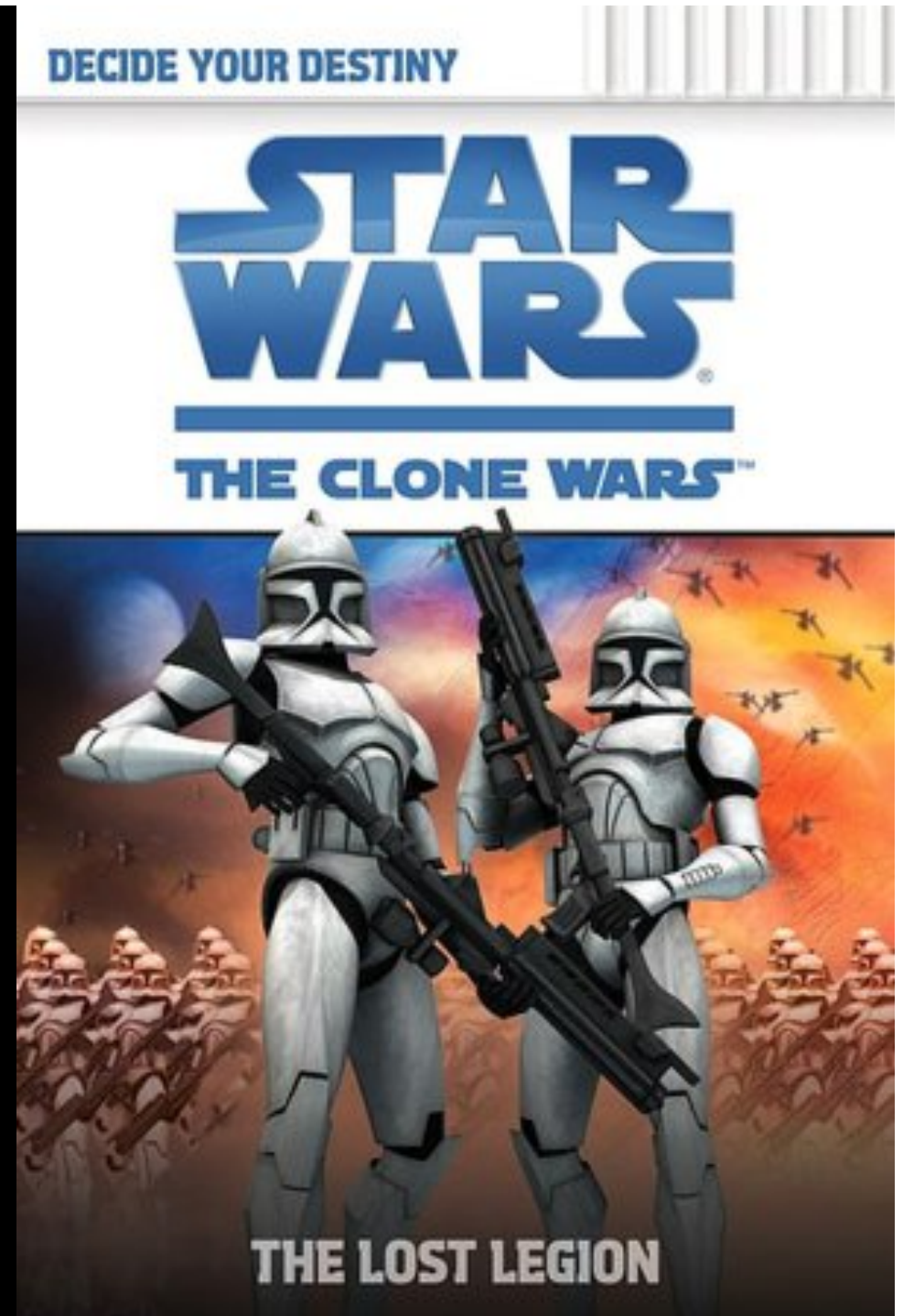
A Brief History

- Begun in 1979.
- Had its origins in the marriage of role playing games and books.
- Over 20 years, the series sold over 250 million copies in 38 languages.
- Fifth best selling series of all time
- Originally the first publication of Bantam's new children's division.
- Last book published by Bantam (since a division of Random House) was in 1998.
- In 2002, the rights reverted to founder R. A. Montgomery, who now publishes the books under his own imprint, Chooseco LLC (Waitsfield, VT).



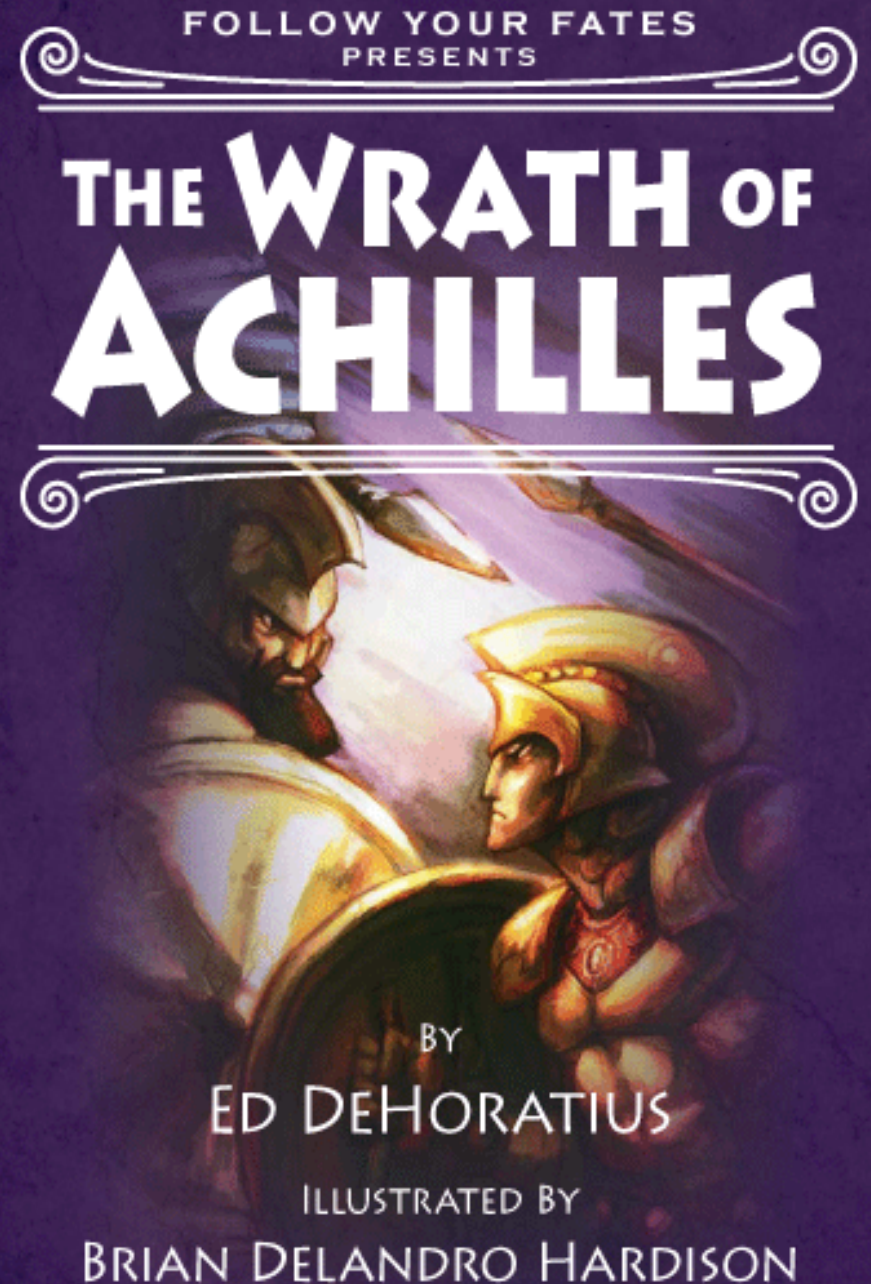
Other CYOA Incarnations

- Follow Your Fates
- Khoya (TED Talk / INK)
- Star Wars Decide Your Destiny
- Plenty of others



The Genesis of Follow Your Fates

- 2003 Senior Project
- 2005 teaching Classical Literature
- 2008 begin shopping the Wrath MS
- 2009 *Wrath of Achilles* published
- 2009 *Journey of Odysseus* published
- 2010 *Exile of Aeneas* published



FOLLOW YOUR FATES
PRESENTS

THE EXILE OF AENEAS



BY
ED DEHORATIUS

ILLUSTRATED BY

BRIAN DELANDRO HARDISON

FOLLOW YOUR FATES
PRESENTS

THE JOURNEY OF ODYSSEUS



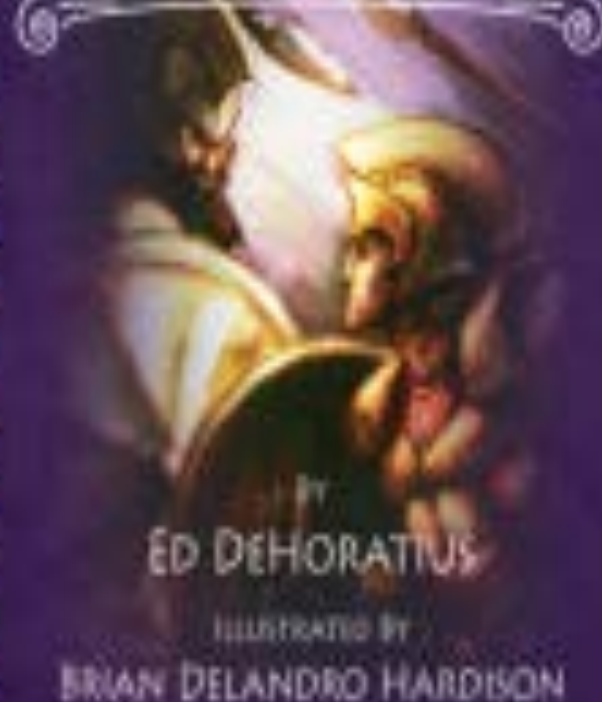
BY
ED DEHORATIUS

ILLUSTRATED BY

BRIAN DELANDRO HARDISON

FOLLOW YOUR FATES
PRESENTS

THE WRATH OF ACHILLES



BY
ED DEHORATIUS

ILLUSTRATED BY

BRIAN DELANDRO HARDISON

Goals of the *Follow Your Fates* Series

- Introduce the substance of ancient literature to younger readers for whom the originals are inaccessible.
- Teach the narratives of the ancient epics.
- Generate interest in ancient literature to lead readers to the study of the languages.
- Generate interest in the ancient world.

Features of the FYF Series

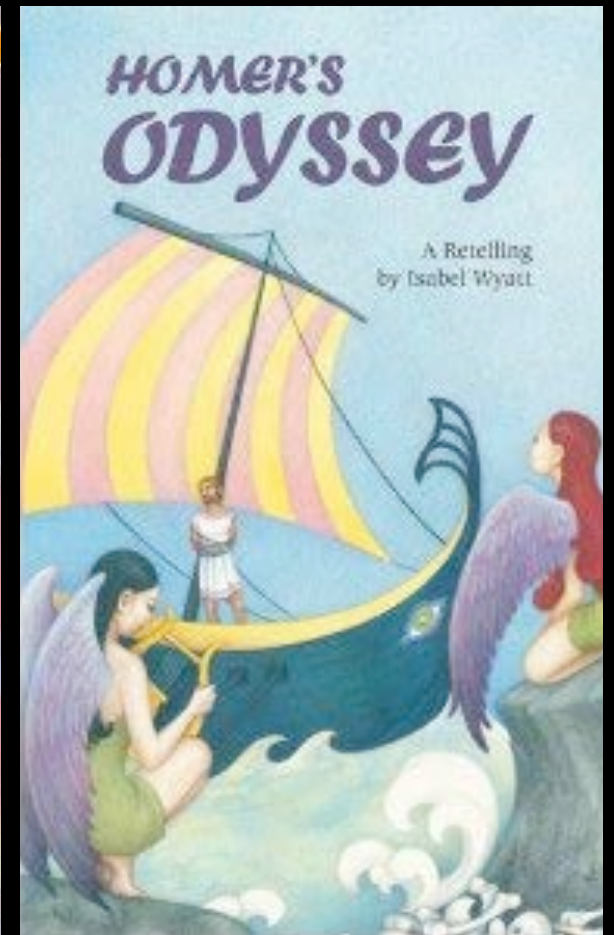
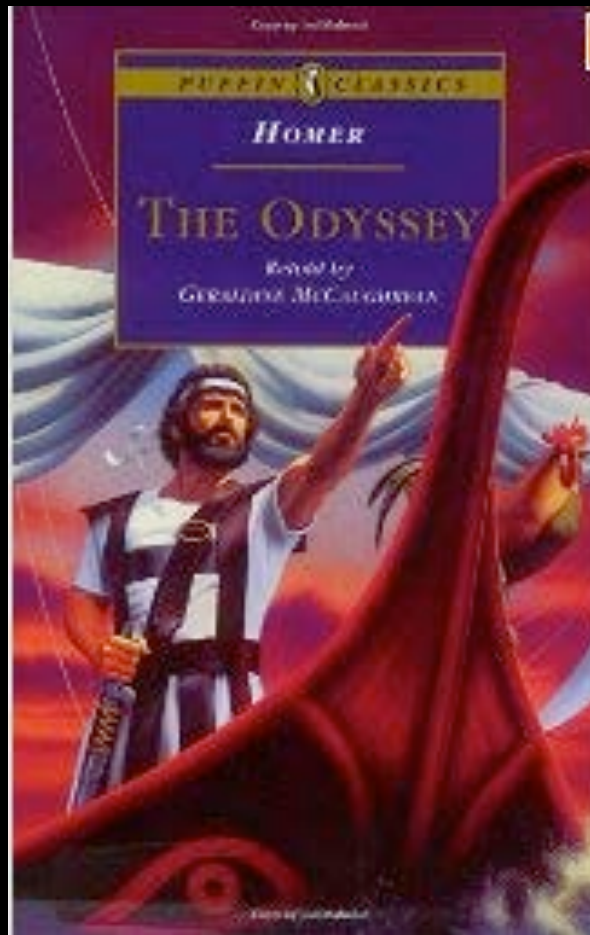
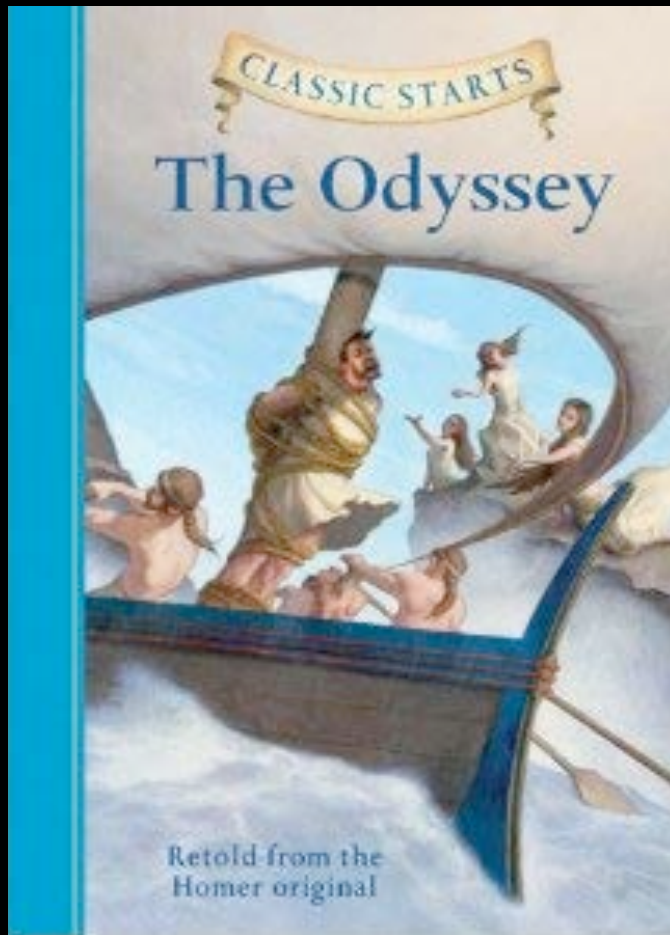
- Presents narrative of ancient epics (*Iliad*, *Odyssey*, *Aeneid*) as written by ancient authors (minus scenes in which hero does not appear).
- Five illustrations per book in Graphic Novel style.
- Introduction that provides background and context to story.
- Glossary of names that defines and provides pronunciation for names that appear in text.
- Greater coverage of narratives (e.g. Odysseus includes Telemachos ruse).`





Other Options: Prose Retellings

- Amazon search for 'juvenile Homer's Odyssey'



They pushed off. They bent across their oars. The sea rose white beneath the prow. Their course lay past the cliff pitted with caves – right below the cave-mouth where Polyphemus sat feeling about for his enemies. The memory of his two dead companions galled Odysseus: he could not unfix his eyes from the huge, hairy back of the weeping Cyclops. All at once he got to his feet and roared, '*I am Odysseus, Polyphemus. I am Odysseus, hero of Troy, and my kingdom encompasses Ithaca, Cephalonia and wooded Zante! It was I who blinded you, and the poets will one day praise me for it in songs of sixty verses!*'

The men at their oars stared at him in disbelief. Even his mascot, his own cockerel, pecked him in the arm. But Odysseus was unrepentant. 'What harm can it do?' he blared. 'There's no one but a blind Cyclops to hear me – ha, ha, ha!'

Polyphemus heard the taunt and rose to his knees, then to his feet. He cocked his ear towards the sound of Odysseus' voice. He picked up the boulder from the opening of his cave and raised it over his head. Before he let it go, he raised his blinded face to the heat of the sun and bawled, 'Father! You god of the oceans! Poseidon, god of the sea – hear my curse! See what Odysseus, King of Ithaca, has done to your son! Hate him with all the heat of the Earth's core – as I do! Hate him with all the unforgivingness of the Earth's icy peaks – as I do! Curse him as I curse him! Avenge me, for I am powerless to be avenged!' And he hurled the boulder.

Finally, out of Cyclops' cave, you head directly for your ships, and immediately set sail. As you watch Cyclops' island recede in the distance, you still feel alive and electric, like you did after a day of battling at Troy: an intoxicating combination of fear, uncertainty, and arrogance. You are pleased that you have not yet lost the edge that being at war for ten years gave you.

In battle, glory is based on your enemy's knowledge of his conqueror. But the Cyclops does not know your name; you will accrue no glory from this victory. You begin to gloat to him, even from this far away, about your victory, but check your impulse; you are no longer on the battlefields of Troy. You have a choice to make.

If you choose to gloat to the Cyclops about his defeat, turn to page 12.

If you choose not to gloat and remain silent, turn to page 4.

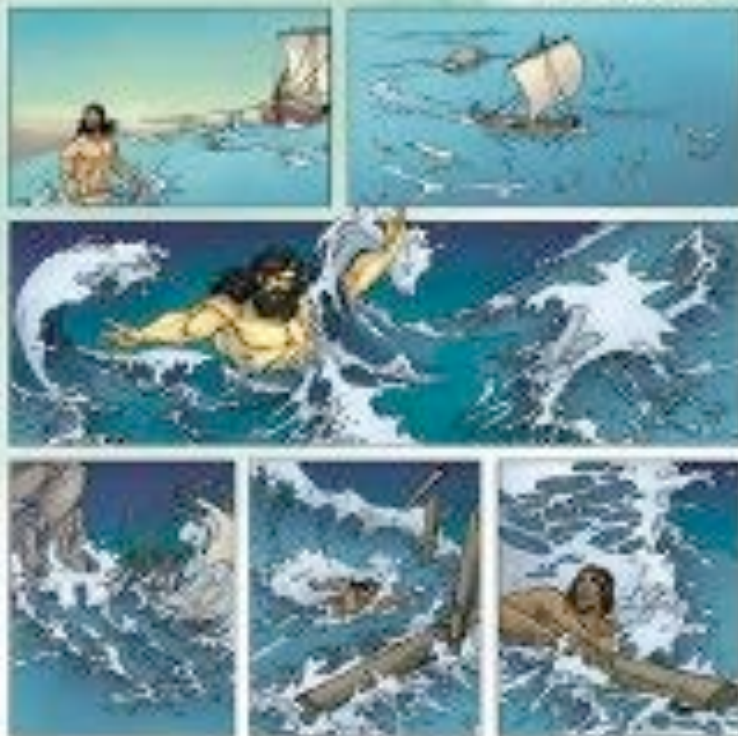


“You cling to the underbelly of one of Polyphemus’
sheep and ride it to freedom.”

THE ODYSSEY

GRAPHIC CLASSICS

HOMER



ILLUSTRATED BY
LI SIDONG

WRITTEN BY
FIONA MACDONALD

BARRON'S



A golden mosaic on a dark background. In the center, a figure with dark curly hair and a halo sits on a wooden stool, writing on a scroll with a quill. To the right, another figure with a halo stands, looking towards the seated figure. In the background, a cross is visible. The entire scene is framed by a curved golden border at the bottom.

IF in the Classroom

What do you think? How would you use it?

IF in the Classroom

- Pre-reading (older students)
- Primary source for Troy / Ancient World / Ancient Epic / Rome unit (younger students who wouldn't read original)
- Assignment, i.e. have students 'convert' an existing story to IF
- Technology: IF, of course, lends itself to technology work
- Specific Assignment: [Lesson plan for IF videos](#)



Writing your own interactive fiction

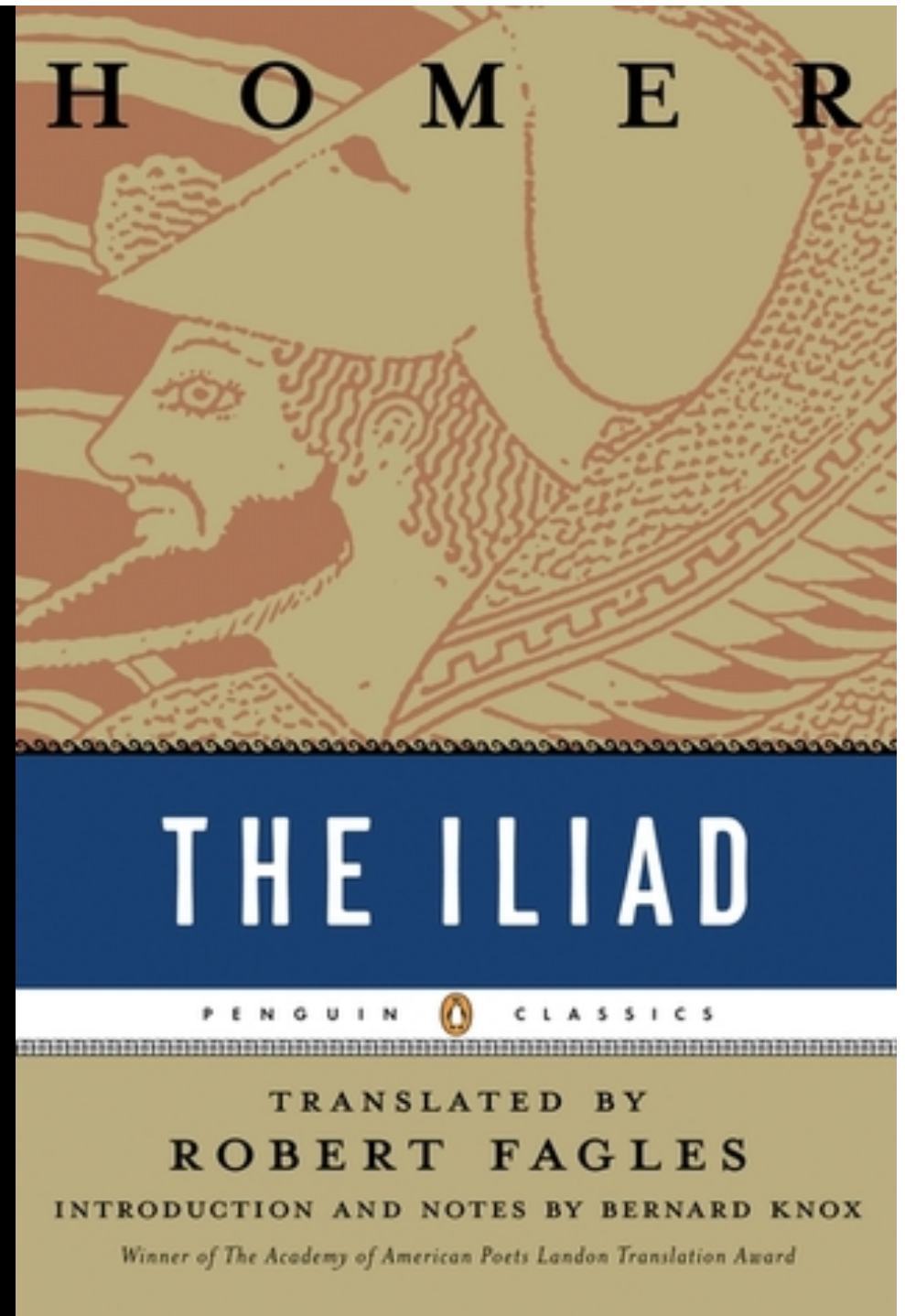
| | A | C | D | E | G | I | J | K |
|----|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 3 | Current Page | Branch Page 1 | Branch Page 2 | Branch Page 3 | New Page | New Branch Page | New Branch Page 2 | New Branch Page 3 |
| 4 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 2 | 10 | 21 | | | | | |
| 6 | 3 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 7 | 4 | 7 | | | | | | |
| 8 | 5 | 49 | | | | | | |
| 9 | 6 | 17 | | | | | | |
| 10 | 7 | 9 | | | | | | |
| 11 | 8 | | | | | | | |
| 12 | 9 | 5 | 24 | | | | | |
| 13 | 10 | 4 | | | | | | |
| 14 | 11 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 15 | 12 | | | | | | | |
| 16 | 13 | 43 | | | | | | |
| 17 | 14 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 18 | 15 | 16 | | | | | | |
| 19 | 16 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 20 | 17 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 21 | 18 | 54 | 42 | | | | | |
| 22 | 19 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 23 | 20 | 15 | | | | | | |
| 24 | 21 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 25 | 22 | 26 | | | | | | |
| 26 | 23 | | | | | | | |
| 27 | 24 | 41 | 31 | | | | | |
| 28 | 25 | 6 | 40 | | | | | |
| 29 | 26 | 20 | 38 | | | | | |
| 30 | 27 | | | | | | | |
| 31 | 28 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 32 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | |
| 33 | 30 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 34 | 31 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 35 | 32 | 25 | | | | | | |
| 36 | 33 | | | | | | | |
| 37 | 34 | 11 | 3 | | | | | |
| 38 | 35 | 29 | 61 | | | | | |
| 39 | 36 | 13 | 48 | | | | | |
| 40 | 37 | 46 | 14 | | | | | |
| 41 | 38 | 55 | | | | | | |
| 42 | 39 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 43 | 40 | 37 | | | | | | |
| 44 | 41 | 42 | | | | | | |
| 45 | 42 | 18 | 50 | 35 | | | | |
| 46 | 43 | 44 | | | | | | |
| 47 | 44 | 32 | 28 | | | | | |
| 48 | 45 | | | | | | | |
| 49 | 46 | 57 | | | | | | |
| 50 | 47 | | | | | | | |
| 51 | 48 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 52 | 49 | 19 | | | | | | |
| 53 | 50 | 34 | 22 | | | | | |
| 54 | 51 | 52 | | | | | | |
| 55 | 52 | 59 | 56 | | | | | |
| 56 | 53 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 57 | 54 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 58 | 55 | 36 | | | | | | |
| 59 | 56 | 53 | | | | | | |
| 60 | 57 | 58 | | | | | | |
| 61 | 58 | 51 | 39 | | | | | |
| 62 | 59 | 60 | | | | | | |
| 63 | 60 | 63 | | | | | | |
| 64 | 61 | 62 | | | | | | |
| 65 | 62 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 66 | 63 | 64 | | | | | | |
| 67 | 64 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 68 | | | | | | | | |

- Write the story in order first (i.e. unshuffled / no page jumps)
- Most difficult part about converting an existing narrative or situation is coming up with plausible alternate endings (easier when you're making your own narrative and don't have a reference point)
- Use an excel spreadsheet to then shuffle the pages

What next?

What fate would you
(or your students) like
to follow next?

WHEN DID
YOU LAST
READ THE
ILIAD?



What is the name of Achilles' slave girl
(whom Agamemnon takes)?

- a) Chryses
- b) Briseis
- c) Chryseis
- d) Briareus
- e) Don't know

Which goddess prevented Achilles
from killing Agamemnon?

- a) Artemis
- b) Hera
- c) Athena
- d) Thetis
- e) Hestia
- f) Don't know

Which of the following was NOT a member of the embassy to Achilles?

- a) Ajax
- b) Phoenix
- c) Diomedes
- d) Odysseus
- e) Don't know

The river Xanthos (Scamander)
defeats Achilles in battle.

- a) True
- b) False
- c) Don't know

Hector proposes to Achilles
before they fight that they
respect the loser's body.

- a) True
- b) False
- c) Don't know

What does the ghost of Patroclus ask Achilles to do?

- a) Return Hector's body to Priam
- b) Continue to defile Hector's body
- c) Convince the Greeks to leave Troy
- d) Bury his body
- e) Take care of Hector's wife
- f) Don't know

Achilles in the end gives
Hector's body back to Priam.

- a) True
- b) False
- c) Don't know

THANK YOU!

ED DEHORATIUS
WAYLAND HIGH SCHOOL
WAYLAND, MA

FOLLOWYOURFATES@GMAIL.COM

FOLLOWYOURFATES.WEEBLY.COM

