

The Song of Achilles

Cut along the dashed lines and pass the cards around the table.

WARM-UP

1

Read aloud the opening paragraph. What does Miller's first sentence promise about voice, register, and emotional stakes?

The Song of Achilles

WARM-UP

2

Which single image or sentence did you underline, photograph, or return to? What about the cadence or diction made it stay with you?

The Song of Achilles

DISCUSSION

3

Miller filters the entire epic through Patroclus's first-person perspective. How does that POV reshape scenes we expect to feel heroic, and what is gained or sacrificed compared to Homer's omniscient grandeur?

The Song of Achilles

DISCUSSION

4

Consider Miller's use of present-tense lyric description against past-tense narration. How does her sentence rhythm change in scenes of intimacy versus scenes of war?

The Song of Achilles

DISCUSSION

5

The novel inherits a 3,000-year tradition (Homer, the Greek tragedians, Ovid, later poets). Where does Miller seem to be in conversation with her sources, and where does she quietly diverge?

The Song of Achilles

DISCUSSION

6

How does Miller handle prophecy and foreknowledge as a structural device? What craft problems does writing toward a known mythic outcome create, and how does she solve them?

The Song of Achilles

DEEP

7

Miller spent roughly a decade writing this novel and later returned to the same world in *Circe*. What preoccupations (voice, marginal figures, the texture of divinity) seem to define her body of work as it stands?

The Song of Achilles

DEEP

8

Critics have placed the book within a recent wave of feminist and queer classical retellings (Atwood, Barker, Haynes). What does Miller's prose style contribute to that tradition that the others do not, and where do you think the novel will sit in twenty years?

The Song of Achilles