

An **ainos** is an 'authoritative utterance for and by a social group; praise; fable'; it is related to the word **ainigma** 'riddle'.

The end of book IX features an *ainos* from Phoenix to Akhilles; the story seems at first glance to be a digression, but a second glance will prove (I hope!) that the story is in fact integral to the themes of the *Iliad*.

So for Wednesday, I would like you to do a close reading of the *micronarrative* (story-within-a-story) of Meleager that is told by Phoenix in *Iliad* scroll IX lines 527-605. A close reading means that you will explain the text using the concepts introduced in lecture. You are not responsible for explaining the concepts.

I'd like you to have **three** written thoughts about the passage: three ways in which the story seems to connect with the concept of the hero as presented so far in the *Iliad*.

Though you should focus your reading on Meleager you may find it helpful to connect this passage with other passages we have read. I have given examples of comparison passages for the topic areas below to get your thinking started -- you may use these or others that you find relevant to the story of Meleager. Examples of things you might want to explore are the following (but you are not limited to these).

- a) the anger or other emotions of the hero (*kholos*, *mênis* etc. - for other examples, *Iliad* I 1, I 188ff.)
- b) lament and the hero's motivations (*Iliad* VI 404ff., *Iliad* XVI 20-45; *Iliad* XVIII 52-64)
- c) compensation (gifts, rewards, *kharis*, *timê*) for the hero's efforts (*Iliad* IX 372-409)
- d) the hero's self definition through those near and dear to him (*philoî*) (*Iliad* IX 624-643)

**Thought one:**

**THOUGHT TWO:**

**THOUGHT THREE:**