Questions from Books VIII and IX

1. In the debate between Agamemnon and Diomedes in Book IX, what does Agamemnon propose doing and how does Diomedes answer?

Agamemnon proposes sailing back home after losing many of his soldiers and not being able to sack Troy liked Jove had promised him. He believed Jove has not only false in his promise, but wants Agamemnon to sail back to Argo empty-handed. Diomedes tells Agamemnon that after he called Diomedes a coward and not a soldier in front of all the Danaans, that he and the other soldiers would stay behind to take and sack Troy, while Agamemnon can go back to Argo.

1. You may sum their arguments in one or two sentences each.

After the loss of his men and the belief, Jove lied to him, Agamemnon wanted to go back to Argo. Diomedes wanted to stay to prove himself not a coward and sack Troy.

1. What has happened to make Agamemnon feel the way he does as he makes his speech (the speech referenced in question one)?

Agamemnon has angered the God Apollo by taking a daughter of his priest, angered Achilles by taking [Briseis](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-iliad/characters) for himself, which made Achilles stop fighting in the war and then he was lied to by the God Jove in his dream to take Troy.

1. What is the purpose of the embassy to Achilles?

They hoped by talking to Achilles and giving him an apology from Agamemnon, giving him back [Briseis](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-iliad/characters), treasures and ever Agamemnon own daughter’s hand in marriage if he returned to help them fight.

1. What does Achilles tell the embassy that he plans to do on the next day?

He planed on sailing home with his friend Phoenix on the morning of the next day.

1. Before the embassy makes their business known to Achilles, what do the visitors and hosts do?

The host made the visitors welcomed, the visitors were sitting on purple rugs, and then host cooking them meat and giving them drink of half water and wine.

1. Who speaks the following lines: “Nothing is worth my life, not all the riches / They say Troy held before the Greeks came, / Not all the wealth in Phoebus Apollo’s / Marble shrine up in craggy Pytho.”

Achilles