

Brief Questions in "Troilus and Criseyde"

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- **To which century does Chaucer belong?**

Ans:

Chaucer belongs to the fourteenth century.

- **What is the special characteristic of the 14th century?**

Ans:

The 14th century marked the end of the medieval age and the beginning of the modern age.

- **Why is the 14th century called a turbulent century?**

Ans:

It is called a turbulent century because many wars, especially between England and France, caused unrest in Europe.

- **When did the Hundred Years' War take place?**

Ans:

The Hundred Years' War began in 1338 and continued beyond the century.

- **What was the result of the Hundred Years' War?**

Ans:

England defeated France and developed a strong sense of patriotism.

- **Why was the age of Chaucer called the Dawn of Reformation?**

Ans:

It was called so because religious beliefs and practices began to change in England.

- **Why is Chaucer regarded as a realistic poet?**

Ans:

Chaucer is regarded as a realistic poet because he portrayed real men and women with human emotions.

- **Why is Chaucer called the first national poet?**

Ans:

Chaucer is called the first national poet because his art reflects English life and character.

- **Who is Tisiphone?**

Ans:

Tisiphone is one of the cruel Furies who punishes human hearts.

- **Why does the poet pray to Tisiphone?**

Ans:

The poet prays to Tisiphone to help him write the sorrowful tale Troilus and Criseyde.

- **Who is Criseyde?**

Ans:

Criseyde is the daughter of Calchas, a priest who left Troy, and she is the heroine of the poem.

- **What is meant by “the double sorrow” of Troilus?**

Ans:

Troilus suffered twice—first in winning Criseyde’s love and then when she left him.

- **What was Troy?**

Ans:

Troy was an ancient city-state near the Aegean Sea in modern Turkey.

- **Who was Priam?**

Ans:

Priam was the King of Troy and the father of Hector and Troilus.

- **Who was Calchas?**

Ans:

Calchas was a priest of Apollo and the father of Criseyde who left Troy after foreseeing its fall.

- **Who is Hector?**

Ans:

Hector was the eldest son of Priam and the brave commander of the Trojan army.

- **What is Palladium?**

Ans:

Palladium was a sacred festival held in honour of the goddess Pallas Athena.

- **Who is Lollius?**

Ans:

Lollius is an imaginary writer mentioned by Chaucer as the source of Troilus's song.

- **What does Troilus confess in his song?**

Ans:

Troilus confesses that love is powerful and irresistible in the human heart.

- **How does Pandarus offer to help Troilus in his love affair?**

Ans:

Pandarus offers to help Troilus because he himself has known love and its pains.

- **What is vice according to Pandarus?**

Ans:

According to Pandarus, mistrusting everyone or believing everyone is a vice.

- **Whom did Troilus mark out as his enemy?**

Ans:

Troilus thought that Fortune was his only enemy.

- **How did Pandarus explain the role of Fortune?**

Ans:

Pandarus said that both joy and sorrow brought by Fortune are temporary.

- **What is the speciality of Fortune?**

Ans:

Fortune's wheel always turns—sometimes bringing joy and sometimes sorrow.

- **Why does the poet invoke Clio, the Muse of history, in Book II?**

Ans:

The poet invokes Clio to help him narrate the story truthfully and beautifully.

- **Why is the month of May called the mother of the happy months?**

Ans:

Because in May, nature blooms again with flowers and beauty after winter.

- **How much does Troilus love Criseyde?**

Ans:

Troilus loves Criseyde so deeply that he feels he will die if she rejects him.

- **In this critical situation of love, what does Criseyde decide?**

Ans:

Criseyde decides to act carefully and seeks Pandarus's advice.

- **Who is Mars?**

Ans:

Mars is the god of war, the son of Jupiter in Roman mythology.

- **How did Troilus win the love of Criseyde?**

Ans:

Troilus won Criseyde's love gradually through loyalty and service.

- **Who is Antigone?**

Ans:

Antigone, Criseyde's niece, sang a song of love that pleased Criseyde.

- **What did Criseyde dream at night?**

Ans:

Criseyde dreamt that an eagle took her heart and replaced it with Troilus's heart.

- **Who is Venus?**

Ans:

Venus is the Roman goddess of love, known as Aphrodite in Greek mythology.

- **Why did Criseyde refuse to read Troilus's letter?**

Ans:

Criseyde feared that reading the letter might put her in danger.

- **What does Troilus do before sealing his letter?**

Ans:

Troilus bathes the ruby of his ring in his tears before sealing the letter.

- **Who was Deiphebus?**

Ans:

Deiphebus was a noble son of King Priam known for his honour and generosity.

- **Who was Helen?**

Ans:

Helen was the beautiful wife of Menelaus who was taken to Troy by Paris.

- **How does Pandarus refer to Criseyde when introducing her to Troilus?**

Ans:

Pandarus calls Criseyde the lady for whose love Troilus would die.

- **Who was Horastes?**

Ans:

Horastes was a man with whom Criseyde was falsely said to be in love.

- **What sort of vice does Criseyde declaim?**

Ans:

Criseyde condemns jealousy as a destructive vice in love.

- **What does Troilus say in praise of love?**

Ans:

Troilus says that love rules the world and guides people through life's troubles.

- **Where do the nine sisters live?**

Ans:

The nine Muses live by Mount Helicon on the hill of Parnassus.

- **Who is Antenor?**

Ans:

Antenor was a Trojan elder who supported returning Helen to the Greeks.

- **What gossip does Calchas hear?**

Ans:

Calchas hears the news of the exchange of war prisoners.

- **Who is Edipp?**

Ans:

Edipp is Oedipus, who blinded himself as punishment for his sins.

- **What is Criseyde's suggestion about the exchange proposal?**

Ans:

Criseyde agrees to go to the Greeks but promises to return to Troy within ten days.

- **What oath does Criseyde take about her return?**

Ans:

She swears that if she fails to return or marries another, may she dwell forever in the river Styx.

- **Who are the three Percae?**

Ans:

The three Percae are Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos—the goddesses of fate.

- **What are these three sisters called in Greek?**

Ans:

In Greek, they are called the Moirai.

- **Who is Sarpedon?**

Ans:

Sarpedon was the son of Zeus and a Trojan ally killed by Patroclus.

- **How does Diomedes recognise Troilus's love for Criseyde?**

Ans:

Diomedes realises Troilus's love when he sees Criseyde grieving constantly for him.

- **What are the physical features of Diomedes?**

Ans:

Diomedes was strong, broad-shouldered, and had a stern voice and bold nature.

- **How did Criseyde welcome Diomedes?**

Ans:

Criseyde welcomed Diomedes kindly, offered him wine and spoke with him gently.

- **What does Diomedes tell Criseyde about Troy's future?**

Ans:

Diomedes tells her that Troy will soon be destroyed and all Trojans will die.

- **Does Criseyde reject or accept Diomedes's love?**

Ans:

Criseyde does not clearly reject him and admits she might accept him later.

- **What gifts does Criseyde give Diomedes as love-tokens?**

Ans:

Criseyde gives Diomedes a horse and a brooch as tokens of love.

- **How does Troilus sign his first letter?**

Ans:

Troilus signs his letter as "Yours Troilus."

- **What does Troilus dream about Criseyde?**

Ans:

Troilus dreams that a wild boar embraces Criseyde and kisses her.

- **Who is Penelope?**

Ans:

Penelope was the faithful wife of Odysseus who waited twenty years for his return.

- **What is a Pagan?**

Ans:

A pagan is one who worships the ancient gods and goddesses of mythology.

- **To whom does Chaucer dedicate his book?**

Ans:

Chaucer dedicates his book to John Gower and Strode.

- **Who is Troilus?**

Ans:

Troilus is the youngest son of King Priam and the lover of Criseyde.

- **Who is the father of Criseyde?**

Ans:

Calchas is the father of Criseyde.

- **How does Book III of Troilus and Criseyde open?**

Ans:

Book III opens with a prayer to Venus, the goddess of love.

- **Who is Diomedes?**

Ans:

Diomedes, the King of Argos, is a Greek hero who wins Criseyde's love.

- **How will Troilus avenge his sorrow?**

Ans:

Troilus plans to end his sorrow through death.

- **What is Troilus's reaction to Criseyde's letter?**

Ans:

Troilus feels her love has changed but still hopes she will return.

- **Why did the Greeks attack Troy?**

Ans:

The Greeks attacked Troy because Paris stole Helen from Menelaus.

- **Who was Pandarus?**

Ans:

Pandarus was Criseyde's uncle and the friend who helped Troilus in his love.

- **What is the subject matter of Troilus's song?**

Ans:

Troilus's song speaks about the joys and pains of love.

- **What does "the black sea" symbolize?**

Ans:

It symbolizes Troilus's deep despair and sorrow in love.

- **Whom does Chaucer invoke at the beginning of the poem?**

Ans:

Chaucer invokes Tisiphone, the Fury, to guide his sorrowful tale.

- **Where did Criseyde see Troilus first?**

Ans:

Criseyde first saw Troilus in the temple of Apollo.

- **Where did Pandarus put Criseyde at night?**

Ans:

Pandarus placed Criseyde in a private chamber.

- **How does the poet describe Criseyde's beauty?**

Ans:

The poet calls Criseyde a woman of angelic beauty and heavenly grace.

- **After Cupid shoots Troilus, what is the first thing he sees?**

Ans:

Troilus first sees Criseyde after being struck by Cupid's arrow.

- **What is the setting of Troilus and Criseyde?**

Ans:

The poem is set in the city of Troy during the Trojan War.

- **What was a Pharaoh?**

Ans:

Pharaoh was the title of the ancient kings of Egypt.

- **What is courtly love?**

Ans:

Courtly love was a refined form of romantic love practiced among nobles, marked by loyalty, courtesy, and devotion.