

The Shield of Achilles Key Info

Writer: W. H. Auden | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts

- **Writer:** W. H. Auden (1907–1973)
- **Original Title:** The Shield of Achilles
- **Source:** Published in Auden's collection The Shield of Achilles (1955)
- **Written Time:** Early 1950s
- **Published Date:** 1952 (first in Poetry magazine, later in the 1955 collection)
- **Form:** Narrative and descriptive poem (mixing classical and modern imagery)
- **Genre:** Modernist Poetry / Mythological Allegory
- **Tone:** Ironic, tragic, reflective
- **Point of View:** Third-person omniscient narrator
- **Total Lines:** 67 lines
- **Total Parts:** Three sections (alternating between Thetis's vision and reality)
- **Setting:**
 - Time Setting: Modern post-World War II era (reflecting moral and social decay)
 - Place Setting: Mythical Greek setting merged with a modern, war-torn world