Assessment of discussion posts: Fair

This student’s early post (response to prompt #3) is the strongest of the three. She picks up on the particular wording of the ancient text and makes something of it; extrapolating a bit into the character’s emotions – but the text is notoriously succinct. Her middle post (#4) brings up particular textual evidence, but to make a point not well connected to the rest of her post (she “fuel for the fire” idea she expresses frequently). The late post (#7) shows good promise, but the evidence she uses to back up her point (that Ulysses wins the verbal contest) does not really fit that point. Also, all three discussion posts show a remarkably casual attitude about the mechanics of spelling, editing, grammar.

Early post:

Thread:
Dog people - large breeds
Post:
RE: Dog people - large breeds

Posted Date: September 29, 2015 9:45 AM
Status: Published

The text says that Agamemnon is angry with the Gods that he has to spill innocent blood. In the next paragraph it then says that Agamemnon changed once, "necessity’s yoke was put upon him he changed, and from the heart came breath came bitter and sacrilegious...stopping at nothing." I think that is is fair to say that Agamemnon, even though he initially feels agry at the Gods, doesn't feel morally guilty for killing his daughter. Because it becomes a "necissity" he doesn't waste time debating how morally corrupt killing his daughter actually is, that's just takes more time away from getting to Troy which is the most important thing. It became easier to do once he knew there was absolutly no way around it and thinking about it would just waste time and make him more upset.

Middle post:
In response to what Alex said about the murals fuiling their souls in comparison to Odysseus and his men, I think that it is interesting that they percieve this as fire for their cause. The people of Troy never avenge their defeat so it seems weird that this would not fule their fire for avenge as much fule their fire to keep running from that dreadful event or to keep running from thier pasts. I also think Aenea's depiction of penthesilea is very interesting. He says, "And Penthesilea amoung her thousands of Amazons with their crescent sheilds. Burning with fury, she binds a bolden belt below one naked breast, a warrior queen daring to do battle with men." This depiction makes you think of kalon-kakon, or a beautiful evil. This could possible be representative of future run in's with women that create a hassle for Anea's goal to establish a new city. Or, it could represent Anea's strength in a weak and feable place. That if a woman can have this strength then he should be able to as well.
I think Ulysses did deserve the win. He fairly bested Ajax. The text says, "The captains were swayed by Ulysses' eloquence, and the smooth talker bore off the hero's arms." (line 461) If this is to be considered a "verbal contest" then clearly Ulysses' wins. First off we know from the Odyssey that Ulysses possesses the quality of persuasive speech. He makes Ajax look like a fool for talking about his lineage by saying, "Now, I do not count a noble lineage as one's own accomplishment" (line 167) He compares everything that Ajax says in his speech and turns it into a catalyst into helping himself look better. It seems a little unfair to put Ajax. To make Ajax look even more dumb he tells the story of him and Ajax going to retrieve Achilles from his mothers but they could not find him Thetis knew that her son was going to die in Troy and disguised him in girl's clothing. This trick fooled Ajax but not Ulysses. This insures Ulysses the armor and the win. I admit that most people want Ajax to win because, well who doesn't love the underdog. But, if this is a verbal contest, then yes Ulysses should have won.