

Oral Participation & Discussion Rubric

Homer's The Iliad

The Trojan War

Classroom Edition for Young Readers

By Frances Bianchi & Mara Seronda



This rubric is designed to assess students' **oral participation in chapter-based discussions** related to *The Iliad – Classroom Edition*.

It applies to:

- whole-class discussions,
- small-group discussion tasks,
- guided reading discussions, and
- oral responses connected to **Think and Discuss** and **Reflection** activities.

The rubric evaluates students' ability to **understand, interpret, and discuss the specific events, decisions, and ethical conflicts presented in each chapter**, not general speaking ability.

Criterion 1: Engagement with Chapter Content

Level	Descriptor
4 – Advanced	Participates actively and consistently, contributing ideas that clearly engage with the chapter’s events and character decisions.
3 – Proficient	Participates regularly with relevant comments connected to the chapter.
2 – Developing	Participates occasionally, with limited or partially relevant contributions.
1 – Beginning	Rarely participates or contributions are not connected to the chapter.

Criterion 2: Listening and Ethical Respect for Others' Ideas

Level	Descriptor
4 – Advanced	Listens attentively, responds respectfully, and builds on others' interpretations or ethical viewpoints.
3 – Proficient	Listens and responds appropriately to others' ideas.
2 – Developing	Shows inconsistent listening or limited engagement with others' viewpoints.
1 – Beginning	Shows little evidence of listening or respect during discussion.

Criterion 3: Use of Specific Evidence from the Chapter (Oral)

Level	Descriptor
4 – Advanced	Clearly refers to specific events, actions, or decisions from the chapter to support spoken ideas.
3 – Proficient	Uses general but accurate references to the chapter.
2 – Developing	References are vague or partially accurate.
1 – Beginning	Spoken ideas are not connected to the chapter.

Criterion 4: Oral Interpretation of Themes and Consequence

Level	Descriptor
4 – Advanced	Clearly explains how characters’ choices relate to themes such as honor, leadership, anger, responsibility, loss, or forgiveness, and discusses possible consequences.
3 – Proficient	Identifies relevant themes and offers basic interpretation.
2 – Developing	Mentions themes with limited explanation or unclear connection.
1 – Beginning	Does not demonstrate understanding of thematic or ethical meaning.

Criterion 5: Clarity and Task Alignment in Oral Response

Level	Descriptor
4 – Advanced	Expresses ideas clearly and follows oral task or discussion guidelines closely.
3 – Proficient	Expresses ideas clearly with minor difficulties and follows most guidelines.
2 – Developing	Oral responses are sometimes unclear or loosely follow the task.
1 – Beginning	Has difficulty expressing ideas or does not follow the oral task.

Scoring and Use

This rubric may be used to assess oral participation during **chapter-based discussions** throughout *The Iliad – Classroom Edition*.

Teachers may score individual criteria separately or use the rubric formatively to support discussion skills and ethical reasoning over time.

The rubric evaluates:

- engagement with chapter content,
- interpretation of character decisions and themes,
- use of specific evidence from the text, and
- clarity and task alignment in oral responses.

Students are **not evaluated on perfect spoken English**. Oral language accuracy is assessed only as it affects clarity and task completion, and in accordance with students' language development levels.