

Greek Literature Study Guide

HOMER*: author of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* said to have been blind.

The Iliad: epic poem, **24** books long, in **didactic hexameter**, tells the story of the **wrath of Achilles** during the Trojan War.

The Odyssey: epic poem, also in didactic hexameter, and **24** books long, tells the story of the return of the Greek hero **Odysseus** to his home in Ithaca, and his revenge on the suitors.

There are also **Homeric hymns** to Demeter, Apollo, Hermes, Aphrodite, Dionysus.

HESIOD*: the other master of early Greek epic poetry besides Homer, lived c 700 B.C. (all dates in this packet are B.C. unless specified as A.D.), wrote the *Theogony*, *Works and Days*

the Theogony: poem in didactic hexameter, an account of the **births of the gods**, talks about the early gods, the Titans, and the Olympians.

Works and Days: poem in didactic hexameter, written to Hesiod's **brother, Perses**; talks about farming, mentions the five ages of man (Golden, Silver, Bronze, Heroic, and Iron) and mentions Prometheus and Pandora.

Aesop: author of well-known fables, **slave** from Egypt or Thrace, lived on Samos

Alcaeus: poet born in the late-seventh century from **Mytilene** on the island of **Lesbos**, conflicted with the tyrant **Pittacus**, went to Egypt, then reconciled with Pittacus and returned home. His work survives only in fragments. He wrote lyrical songs about a variety of topics, such as politics, love, and hymns to the gods. Like Archilochus, threw down his shield and ran from a battle.

Alcman: lyric poet who lived in Sparta in the late seventh century. He was mainly known for *partheneia*, which are songs sung by a chorus of maidens at religious festivals.

Anacreon: lyric poet of the early sixth century, born in **Teos**, an Ionian Greek city, moved to the tyrant, **Polycrates**' court on **Samos**. After Polycrates' fall, he moved to Athens. He wrote in Ionian Greek, in lyric, iambic, and elegiac poetry. These are about love and the pleasures of life.

Anaximander: Pre-socratic philosopher from Miletus, lived c 610-545, first Greek known to have written a book in prose. This book, concerning nature, is lost. He is said to have constructed **the first map of the Earth**.

Anaximenes: Presocratic philosopher from Miletus, younger contemporary of Anaximander (therefore he lived in the mid-sixth century). He believed that the **primary substance** was **air**, but his writings are lost to us.

Archilochus: poet from Paros, lived in the mid-seventh century. He also wrote a poem in which he **leaves behind his shield** in battle, a great dishonor, in order to survive. He was the first to use the term iambic for the meter of some of his poems.

Arion: largely legendary lyric poet of the seventh century, said to have been born on **Lesbos**, and to have been a pupil of **Alcman**. He later lived at the court of **Periander** in Corinth. According to legend, while on the way back from a visit to Italy, he was thrown overboard by pirates, but a **dolphin**, charmed by Arion's singing, **carried him to land**. He is credited with inventing the dithyramb, a form of choral lyric poetry.

Bacchylides: lyric poet from Ceos, lived in the late sixth and early to middle fifth centuries; the **nephew of the poet Simonides**. He wrote **odes** for victors at games, in a similar style to **Pindar** (sometimes the two wrote about the same games, such as the Olympic games of 476 and Pythians of 470), and wrote hymns and other songs. He was considered by Aristotle to be a forerunner to tragedy.

Empedocles: Presocratic philosopher of the fifth century, who believed that the universe consists of **four elements**: air, fire, water, and earth. He is said to have composed two poems, *On Nature*, and *Purifications*.

Heracleitus: philosopher from Ephesus who wrote *On Nature*, and said that the **primary element is fire**. He was later known as 'the weeping philosopher'.

Herodotus*: author of the *History of the Persian Wars*, which is **9 books long**; he was born in Asia Minor. His history contains earlier events and a large amount of cultural information.

Ibycus:. According to legend he was attacked by robbers while a **flock of cranes** was passing overhead. Before the robbers killed him, he exclaimed, "Those cranes will avenge me." Afterwards, one of the robbers was in a crowded theater, and seeing a flock of cranes overhead, said, "There go the avengers of Ibycus." His comment was overheard and the robbers were brought to justice.

Parmenides: Presocratic philosopher from Elea, **founded the Eleatic school of philosophy**. He wrote the *Way of Truth* and the *Way of Seeming*, which are one poem in two parts.

Pindar*: lyric poet from Thebes, in Boeotia, lived c 518-440, wrote **odes** to the victors at the four great games. Therefore, he wrote **Olympian, Pythian, Nemean, and Isthmian odes**. He is said to have been **instructed by Corinna**. His **house** was the **only one in Thebes spared** by Alexander the Great when he levelled the city. He wrote in **Doric Greek** and wrote an ode to **Hieron I of Syracuse**, as well as to other Sicilian tyrants. He is considered by many to be the greatest Greek lyric poet.

Pythagoras: Presocratic philosopher of the sixth century, **left no writings**, believed in an immortal soul, which is rational and reincarnated into different bodies based on choices made in the past life (the **transmigration of souls**). He is credited with the theorem that bears his name.

Sappho*: lyric **poetess** from **Lesbos**, lived in the late-seventh century; a contemporary of Alcaeus, while young she went into exile in Sicily because of political troubles on Lesbos.. Her poems are about love. One of these poems was translated by **Catullus** in his **poem 51**. It concerns her love of a girl at mere sight, while a young man beside her is unmoved by the same thing. She was called the '**tenth muse**'.

Semonides: iambic and elegiac poet from Samos, and later Amorgos; lived in the mid-seventh century. He wrote in Ionic Greek and only a few fragments of his poems survive.

Simonides: lyric and elegiac poet from Ceos, lived from 556-468; the **uncle of the poet Bacchylides**, he is most famous for epigrams. He wrote **epitaphs**(odes) for the Athenian dead at **Marathon** and the Spartan dead at **Thermopylae**.

Stesichorus: lyric poet said to have been born in Mataluros in Italy, and to have lived in Himera in Sicily; his real name was Teisias and he lived in the early sixth century. He wrote many poems, of which only fragments survive. He is most famous for supposedly being **struck blind** for **slandering Helen** in one of his poems.

Theognis: elegiac poet from Megara, lived in the sixth century; many lines ascribed to him survive, but

most are probably not authentic. His poems addressed to a young boy, Cyrnus, who he seems to have loved, are commonly judged as authentic. Theognis wrote about a variety of subjects besides homosexual love, such as morality and wealth.

Tyrtaeus: Spartan elegiac poet of the seventh century. He wrote about **war**, and exhorted the Spartans to conquer Messenia. His poems filled five books, but only fragments survive.

Seven Sages: name given by Greek tradition to a group of seven men: statesmen, lawgivers, and philosophers. They are:

1) **Bias**, 2) **Chilon**, 3) **Cleobulus** of Rhodes, 4) **Periander**: tyrant of Corinth c 625-585, brought Corinth to its greatest prosperity and promoted the arts, 5) **Pittacus**: a statesman from **Mytilene** on **Lesbos**, feuded with **Alcaeus**, later became dictator in Mytilene, 6) **Solon***: Athenian **lawgiver**, **archon** in **594-93**; also a poet and known for his wisdom. His most important law was the **seisachtheia**, which **ended enslavement for debt** and all current debts. He is said to have visited **Croesus**, and told him that **no man may count himself lucky until he is dead**. He went into voluntary exile after inacting his laws., 7) **Thales***: Presocratic philosopher, lived in Miletus c 600; he was the **earliest Greek scientist**. He is said to have **predicted an eclipse of the sun** in 585, and he **believed the primary substance was water**.

Theater terms: Theater was performed in Athens at the **Great Dionysia**, a festival honoring the god of wine and revelry. Five comedies were performed; each competing playwright entered three tragedies, usually a trilogy, and a satyr play.

orchestra: originally a dancing floor, later for the chorus

thymele: altar to Dionysus

theatron: 'watching-place', for spectators

parados: 'way-in', the entrance

skene: 'tent' or 'hut', the dressing rooms

Dithyrambic poetry may have been the precursor to the play.

Thespis*: an Attican credited with **inventing the play** in the 530s at the Dionysia festival, adding an actor to the chorus. He is also said to have invented the mask. The term **Thespian**, referring to actors in dramas, comes from his name.

The three most important tragedians:

AESCHYLUS*: lived from **525-456**, **earliest tragedian whose work survives**; According to a story, he was **killed** when an **eagle dropped a tortoise on his** (bald) **head**, while he was visiting Hieron I of Syracuse..

Aeschylus wrote eighty to ninety plays, out of which **seven** survive.

1)the *Persians*:. the only surviving Greek tragedy with a **historical theme**;

2)the *Seven Against Thebes*;

The *Oresteia* trilogy:. It contains these plays: 3)*Agamemnon*: 4) *Choephoroe*(the *Libation Bearers*):

5)*Eumenides*('kindly ones', a euphemism for the Furies) : -- only extant trilogy of Aeschylus

6)The *Suppliants*:.

7)*Prometheus Bound*:

Aeschylus added the second actor to the play. He used three in his later plays. He won the dramatic competition at least 13 times; no doubt, many other times as well.

SOPHOCLES*: lived c 496-406/405, He wrote over one hundred plays, placing first about 80% of the

time, and second all the rest of the times. Seven of his tragedies and most of one satyr play are extant. His extant plays are:

Ajax:

Trachinian Women:

Oedipus Rex(Tyrannus).

Oedipus at Colonus

Antigone:

Electra

Philoctetes:

Sophocles **added the third actor** and **scenery** to plays, and **increased the chorus** from **12** to **15** members. He is said to have made his characters as they ought to be, in contrast to Euripides, who made his characters as they are. In other words, his characters were idealized.

EURIPIDES*: lived c 485-406, died just before Sophocles, said to have written his plays in **a cave on Salamis**. He used the technique *Deus ex machina*, where a **god solves the plot, the most** of the playwrights. **19** of his plays survive, the **most** of any Greek dramatist. We know the titles of eighty plays by him. He was supposedly torn to pieces by the dogs of Archelaus, the king of Macedon, while visiting there. His extant plays are:

Alcestis--satyr play(?)

Bacchae

Electra

Hecuba

Hippolytus:

Ion:

Iphigenia at Aulis

Iphigenia in Tauris:

Medea:

Orestes

Rhesus

Suppliant Women:

Trojan Women:

Comedy: all extant comedy is Athenian, the number of comedies performed at the Great Dionysia was reduced to **three** during and after the Peloponnesian war for economic reasons. Comedy is organized into three periods: Old, Middle, and New.

Old Comedy: **ARISTOPHANES***: lived c 445 to 385, little is known of his life except that he was by far the greatest writer of Old Comedy. We have eleven of his plays completely and fragments from several others. Here are some:

The Clouds:. It **ridiculed Socrates**

The Wasps: It **ridiculed the jury and court system**

The Peace. The **hero** in the play **rides to heaven on a dung-beetle**.

The Birds:. Two Athenians travel to **Nephelokokkygia**(‘cloudcuckooland’) to escape the war.

Lysistrata, the **most famous play** of Aristophanes **in modern times**. The women of Sparta and Athens get together and decide to reject their husbands until they give up the war.

The Frogs: The Athenians need a tragic poet, and Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides are all dead.

Dionysus decides to settle a **dispute between Aeschylus and Euripides** as to who is the greatest tragedian(Sophocles having given way for Aeschylus). Dionysus **chooses Aeschylus**.

The last two surviving plays of Aristophanes belong to **Middle Comedy**(400-323) They are:

Ecclesiazusae: probably produced in 392. Women, under the leadership of Praxagora, take over the

government. They institute communal property and equal sexual relations for everyone, young and old. The chorus is less important in this play than in previous Aristophanes works, and there is no *parabasis*.

The Plutus (*The Wealth*): produced after *Ecclesiazusae*; a previous play of his, produced in 408, had the same title but is lost. *The Plutus* is **the last of Aristophanes' extant plays**.

New Comedy: all comedy from **323 to 263** (from the death of Alexander to the death of Philemon).

Menander*: the **greatest writer of New Comedy**, lived from 342-292, **died by drowning in the harbour of Piraeus**. Only **one** of his some 100 plays **is extant** completely. *The Dyscolus* ('*the bad-tempered man*'): is the complete play;

Thucydides*: wrote the *History of the Peloponnesian War*, which is known for being impartial, despite Thucydides being an Athenian general, until he was **removed after failing to take Amphipolis**. His history ends in **411** with **the recall of Alcibiades**. He mentions Pericles' funeral oration, to the Athenians who died in the first year of the war.

Philosophy: (through Hellenistic times)

Socrates*: son of a sculptor (Sphroniscus) and a midwife (Phaenarete); his wife was Xanthippe, he wrote nothing. What we know about him comes from his students, mainly **Plato** and **Xenophon**. He is famous for **the Socratic method**, which involves **questions and answers**. He believed in pseudo-gods called **Daimones** (Daimon is singular). He was tried for **corrupting the youth of Athens** and compelled to commit suicide by drinking **hemlock** in **399**.

PLATO*: student of Socrates, lived from c 427-348; he founded the **Academy**, a school in Athens that survived for centuries. Demiurgus is a Platonic term for the creator.

Writings:

Apology: Socrates' **address at his trial**

Crito: a dialogue with Socrates **in prison**, Crito is a friend who visits him

Gorgias: dialogue in which Socrates discusses rhetoric with the famous sophist. Socrates states during the dialogue that it is better to suffer evil than to do it, and to be punished than to go unpunished.

Meno: dialogue concerning whether virtue can be taught.

Phaedo: dialogue concerning the nature of death and the immortality of the soul, a discussion between Socrates and his friends as Socrates is dying; it also discusses the trip of the soul to the afterlife

Republic: Plato's most famous work in modern times, it discusses the perfect government, which to Plato is the rule of the greatest philosopher.

Symposium: discourse at a **dinner party** concerning **the nature of love**; **Aristophanes** hiccups throughout it.

Timaeus: contains the beginning of the Atlantis story, discusses **the origin of the universe**.

Laws: Plato's **last and longest work**, a modification of Plato's political ideas in *Republic*

Xenophon*: an Athenian, a student of Socrates; he was a **member of the Ten Thousand** in their expedition, took command after the officers were killed and led the mercenaries out of Persia. Xenophon wrote the *Anabasis*, which tells that story in seven books and contains the famous cry: **Thalatta, Thalatta** (Thalassa, Thalassa).

Other writings:

Apology: like Plato's work of the same name, it is Socrates' address during his trial

Memorabilia: recollections of Socrates, including his character and some of his philosophical ideas.

Symposium: like Plato's work of the same name, is set at a dinner party and discusses love; Socrates is present in both Symposia.

ARISTOTLE*: lived from **384-322**, born in **Stageira** in **Chalcidice**. He became **Alexander's tutor**; Plato nicknamed him **Reader**. The **Lyceum** was a **school he founded**. He also founded the **Peripatetic** school and was its first head.

Writings:

A group of six treatises on logic.

A group of treatises on metaphysics.

Physica: discusses matter, forms, and the four causes (Material, Formal, Moving, and Final)

De Caelo: concerning the movements of celestial bodies

Meteorologica: treatises about weather, and including the *Historia Animalium*, which discusses animals and how they should be classified.

Nicomachean Ethics: Aristotle's views on personal morality and happiness, edited by his son Nichomachus

Eudemian Ethics: an earlier edition of Aristotle's ethical views, shows more influence from Plato, edited by Aristotle's student, Eudemus.

Politics: eight books long, this work shows that Aristotle believed a limited democracy is best, because the perfect ruler could not be found, and speculates on the origin of government.

Constitution of Athens: written earlier than Politics, it traces the development of the Athenian constitution and discusses the democracy of Aristotle's time.

Rhetoric: a discussion of oratory in general, focusing on persuasion.

Poetics: Aristotle's commentary on literature, particularly tragedy and comedy. He says that **Margites**, a lost poem about a fool's adventures, is a proto-comedy. He believes **Oedipus Rex** to be the supreme tragedy. He also discusses epic poetry and finally deals with censure.

Other philosophers and philosophies:

Zeno*: the **founder of the Stoics**, taught in the Eleatic school after Parmenides.

Stoicism: school of philosophy, founded by Zeno c 315, in Athens. It took its name from *stoa*, a Greek word meaning **porch**, as Zeno taught there. The Stoics believed that man should pursue harmony and stay detached, and believed in self-discipline. They believed the universe is periodically **doused in fire** and in a **divine law** called *logos*.

Antisthenes: the **founder of the Cynics**

Diogenes*: the most famous Cynic, lived in a tub; Alexander said that if he could not be Alexander, he would like to be Diogenes.

Cynicism: founded by Antisthenes c 440, the Cynics believed that virtue makes happiness; Diogenes modified this philosophy into a general contempt for knowledge and morality.

Epicurus*: founder of Epicureanism, born in Samos, he moved to Athens and founded the school in the gardens in 306. He wrote *On Nature*, expounding the beliefs of Epicureanism.

Epicureanism: founded by Epicurus, believed that happiness comes from **pleasure** (absence of pain). The Roman author Lucretius continued Epicurean theory.

Scepticism: philosophy **founded by Pyrrhon** of Elis; the Academy later adopted sceptic beliefs. The Sceptics believed that true knowledge is unattainable and therefore the proper attitude is one of indifference.

Neo-Platonism: the school of philosophy centered in Alexandria in the early centuries A.D. It developed the ideas of Plato, until basically eliminated by Christianity. The most famous Neo-Platonist was Hypatia, murdered by a Christian mob in A.D. 415.

Leucippus*: **original developer of the atomic theory**, later improved by Democritus

Democritus*: developer of the atomic theory, sometimes incorrectly stated to be its originator; he was born c 460 in Abdera, lived a long life, and traveled widely.

Euclid: wrote *Elements*, establishing plane geometry.

Oratory/Rhetoric: may have come from Sicily, via the Sophists, travelling teachers who gave lectures in various places on various topics. Corax may have been its originator.

Gorgias: the most famous Sophist, from Leontini in Sicily

Protagoras: another famous Sophist, he was from Abdera, and came to Athens in the mid 400s. He is most famous for saying, “Man is the measure of all things.”

Pericles gave speeches, paraphrased by Thucydides, also a famous speaker.

There are canon of **Ten Attic Orators, here are 7**:

Antiphon: the earliest of the Attic Orators, he lived c 480-411; we have several of his law speeches and Tetralogies. He is said to have been a teacher of Thucydides.

Andocides: convicted for the Mutilation of the Hermae and disgraced, he wrote *On his Return*, asking for a return to Athens, and *On the Mysteries*, referring to the Eleusinian Mysteries, which he once attended.

Lysias: originally from Syracuse, he settled in Athens; he fled from the Thirty Tyrants, who killed his brother Polemarchus. His style was clear and resigned. Some of his 34 extant speeches are:

On the Murder of Eratosthenes

Isocrates*: lived from 436-338, influenced by the Sophists and Socrates (who in one of Plato’s dialogues predicts Isocrates’ future greatness as either an orator or philosopher), he stayed out of public life for a while, due to a weak voice and a lack of nerve. He overcame this eventually, and is most famous for his *Panegyricus*, which urged Greeks to unite. He was pro-Macedonian, and wrote the *Phillipus* to Philip II of Macedon, urging him to unite Greece. *On the Peace*: given in 355, it urged Athens to pursue a non-aggressive foreign policy and to abandon the maritime empire Athens had built.

DEMOSTHENES*: the greatest Athenian (also the greatest Greek) orator, he studied under Isaeus. Demosthenes overcame a speech impediment (he practiced speaking with stones in his mouth) to become a prominent politician. He was strongly against Philip II of Macedon.

Major Speeches:

The *Philippics* were given against of Macedon.

On the Peace: given in 346 after the Peace of Philocrates with Macedonia

Demosthenes feuded with Aechines, whom Demosthenes had impeached, but successfully appealed in 343.

On the Crown: this was Demosthenes’ greatest speech; given in 330, it was in reply to Aeschines’ attack on a proposal by Ctesiphon to give Demosthenes a crown for his services to Athens. The vote on the proposal was overwhelmingly in Demosthenes’ favor.

Other Speeches:

Aeschines*: rival of Demosthenes, lived c 390-336; he was impeached in 343 by Demosthenes, but successfully appealed. Three of his speeches survive. Aeschines gave *Against Timarchus* (an ally of Demosthenes) and successfully convicted him of immorality in 345. He convinced Athens to start a war a sacred war with Amphissa, which culminated in war with Macedonia and defeat for Athens. He gave *Against Ctesiphon* in 330, but was defeated by Demosthenes’ *On the Crown*. Aeschines was decidedly inferior to Demosthenes in oratory.

Lycurgus: member of the Eteobutadae family; a pupil of Isocrates, he was **in charge of Athenian finances from 338-326**. Only one of his fifteen speeches, *Against Leocrates*, survives.

Remaining Poets, Scientists, etc.:

Anaximenes: Ionian scientist, came to Athens c 460 and became a friend of Pericles; he wrote *On Nature* and believed in a **divine intelligence called Nous**, and also was the first to explain solar eclipses.

Apollodorus: wrote *On the Gods*, and *Chronicle*; lived in Athens c 140.

Apollonius of Rhodes: said to succeed Eratosthenes as head of the Alexandrian library, he wrote the *Argonautica*, an epic four books long describing the story of **Jason**.

Aratus: wrote *Phainomena*, describing the stars and constellations, and *Diosemal*, which Cicero translated into Latin in his youth.

Archimedes: scientist who lived from 287-212 in **Syracuse**, was **killed by the Romans** under Marcellus when they took Syracuse. He **helped the defenders to hold out for two years** with his inventions such as huge mirrors which set Roman ships on fire. He also invented a new type of pulley, and is famous for saying that if he had a place to stand, he could move the earth. He also said ‘**Eureka**’, after discovering, by observing the displacement of water in his tub by his body, a way to test the purity of metals.

Aristarchus(of Samos): an astronomer who first **developed the theory that the sun is the center of the solar system**; but because he supposed the planets’ orbits to be circular and not elliptical, his ideas were rejected as not confirmed by observation until Copernicus in the late Middle Ages.

Aristarchus(of Samothrace): head of the Alexandrian library from c 180 to c 145, he edited the works of such authors as Homer, Hesiod, and Pindar, among others.

Aristides of Miletus: wrote *Milesian Tales*, a series of short stories, similar to the Satyricon of the Latin author Petronius.

Aristippus: a pupil of Socrates from founded the Cyrenaic philosophy, which believed pleasure was the ultimate good; he was a predecessor to Epicurus.

Asclepiades: a writer of epigrams, he was from Samos, and invented a new type of meter which was named for him.

Bion: poet, imitator of Theocritus, wrote a *Lament for Adonis*.

Callimachus*: a head of the Alexandrian library in the early to middle 200s, he **wrote *Lock of Berenice***, a very famous poem translated by Catullus in his poem 66. Callimachus **feuded with Apollonius of Rhodes**. He had other works, such as an epigram to a friend of his named Heraclitus(not the scientist, obviously), but most is fragmentary. He **originated** the famous saying, “**Big book, big evil.**” He also wrote *Hecale* and *Aetia*(the latter is about customs).

Callisthenes: a nephew and pupil of Aristotle, he was **the historian accompanying Alexander**, until he was **executed in 327** for knowledge of an assassination plot against Alexander.

Crates: a Cynic philosopher who instructed Zeno

Another **Crates**(different from the comic poet and the philosopher) was the last head of the Old Academy(The Academy went through several changes in philosophy).

Eratosthenes: succeeded **Zenodotus** as **head** of the **Alexandrian library** in the late 200s; he was proficient at many areas from mathematics to poetry to philosophy. He is most famous for calculating **the circumference of the earth**. He also wrote *Chronographiae*, which is the first scientific attempt to fix the dates of Greek history.

Hippocrates: the **father of medicine**, he was born on Cos c 460 and lived to a very old age; many treatises and books on medicine are attributed to him, but most were probably by his disciples. The oath modern doctors take is named after him.

Lucian: wrote the *Way to Write History*, and many other things

Lycophron: lived c 325, wrote *Alexandra*, in which Cassandra foretells the fall of Troy

Menippus: another Cynic philosopher, he lived in the 200s and wrote combined prose and verse

Nicander: poet of the 2nd century B.C. from Colophon, who **wrote** *Theriaca*, about the bites of venomous animals, and *Alexipharmaca*, about antidotes to poisons.

Nostoi: a lost epic poem of unknown authorship dealing with the returns of various heroes from Troy

Pausanias: not the Spartan regent, he wrote *Descriptions of Greece*, a ten book long guidebook for tourists

Strabo: wrote *Geographica* and *Historical Studies*

Theocritus*: poet born c 300 in Syracuse, moved to Alexandria. He is known for writing **idylls**, short poems usually describing **pastoral** scenes. His most famous is *Lament for Daphnis*, a much imitated work. Another famous idyll by Theocritus is *Adoniazusae*. His other subjects include Polyphemus and Galatea, Hylas, Pollux and Amycus. He also wrote letters to Hieron II of Syracuse and Ptolemy II of Egypt.

Theophrastus*: lived from c 371-287, he was a **pupil of Aristotle** and **succeeded him as head** of the **Peripatetic** school. He wrote two treatises on plants, a treatise on metaphysics, and one called *On Style*. He is most famous for *Characters*, a series of character sketches with each character humorously illustrating a different fault.