

Homer and Herodotus

Homer, *The Iliad*

Rage—Goddess, sing the rage of Peleus' son Achilles,
murderous, doomed, that cost the Achaeans countless losses,
hunting down to the House of Death so many sturdy souls,
great fighters' souls, but made their bodies carrion,
feasts for the dogs and birds,
and the will of Zeus was moving toward its end.
Begin, Muse, when the two first broke and lashed,
Agamemnon lord of men and brilliant Achilles.

Homer, *The Odyssey*

Sing to me of the man, Muse, the man of twists and turns
driven time and again off course, once he had plundered
the hallowed heights of Troy.

Herodotus, *The Histories*

Herodotus of Halicarnassus here presents his research so that human events do not fade with time. May great and wonderful deeds--some brought forth by the Hellenes, others by the barbarians--not go unsung; as well as the causes that led them to make war on each other.