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The Age of Alexander: Nine Greek Lives

Plutarch · *Dryden/Clough, 1864 · John Dryden and others, revised by Arthur Hugh Clough (1864), Project Gutenberg #674*

Archidamus, the son of Zeuxidamus, having reigned gloriously over the Lacedaemonians, left behind him two sons. So the first of these nine lives, Agesilaus, begins. Dryden/Clough, 1864, Project Gutenberg #674: nine Greek Lives only, removed from their Roman pairings—not the complete Parallel Lives. The same Gutenberg volume also supplies The Fall of the Roman Republic. Name the selection. For grades 9–12. War: no gore spectacle. Quote this English.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this file as a selection of nine Greek Lives in Dryden/Clough, opening with Agesilaus and later naming a purpose to epitomize Alexander, rather than as the complete Parallel Lives?

"Archidamus, the son of Zeuxidamus, having reigned gloriously over the Lacedaemonians, left behind him two sons, Agis the elder, begotten of"
Agesilaus

Plutarch, in John Dryden and others, revised by Arthur Hugh Clough (1864), Project Gutenberg #674. This file gives nine lives only: Agesilaus, Pelopidas, Dion, Timoleon, Demosthenes, Phocion, Alexander, Eumenes and Demetrius. It is not the complete Parallel Lives, and the lives are removed from their Roman pairings. It opens with Agesilaus: Archidamus, the son of Zeuxidamus, having reigned gloriously over the Lacedaemonians, left behind him two sons. Later, of Alexander: It being my purpose to write the lives of Alexander the king, and of Caesar. For grades 9–12. Name the selection. War: no gore spectacle. Quote this English.

KEY CHARACTERS

Agesilaus
The first life in this file; he never let his lameness withhold him from any toil or any brave action

Alexander
Born the sixth of Hecatombaeon, the same day that the temple of Diana at Ephesus was burnt; Plutarch says he will epitomize the most celebrated parts of his story

Arthur Hugh Clough
Who revised this Dryden English in 1864; name him, with Dryden

HOW TO BEGIN THESE NINE LIVES

> *"Archidamus, the son of Zeuxidamus, having reigned gloriously over the Lacedaemonians, left behind him two sons, Agis the elder, begotten of"*
> Agesilaus

> *"It being my purpose to write the lives of Alexander the king, and of Caesar, by whom Pompey was destroyed, the multitude of their great actions affords so large a field that I were"*
> Alexander

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Archidamus Left Two Sons

AGESILAUS

Archidamus, the son of Zeuxidamus, having reigned gloriously over the Lacedaemonians, left behind him two sons. The first life in this file begins with a succession, not with Alexander.

- Keep "reigned gloriously" and "two sons."
- 9–12.
- This file opens with Agesilaus, not with Alexander.
- Quote Dryden/Clough.

> *"Archidamus, the son of Zeuxidamus, having reigned gloriously over the Lacedaemonians, left behind him two sons, Agis the elder, begotten of"*
> Agesilaus

02

Lameness, and a Brave Action

AGESILAUS

And he never let his lameness withhold him from any toil or any brave action. The first life already teaches courage under a hardship of the body.

- Keep "never let his lameness withhold him."
- 9–12. Courage, not mockery.
- Agesilaus, the first of nine.
- Quote this wording.

> *"he never let his lameness withhold him from any toil or any brave action. Neither his"*
> Agesilaus

03

To Write the Lives of Alexander

ALEXANDER

It being my purpose to write the lives of Alexander the king, and of Caesar, by whom Pompey was destroyed, the multitude of their great actions affords so large a field that I were to blame if I should not by way of apology forewarn my reader that I have chosen rather to epitomize the most celebrated parts of their story. Plutarch names his own method.

- Keep "epitomize the most celebrated parts."
- Name this as Alexander's life, not the whole file.
- 9–12.
- Quote this English.

> *"It being my purpose to write the lives of Alexander the king, and of Caesar, by whom Pompey was destroyed, the multitude of their great actions affords so large a field that I were"*
> Alexander

04

Alexander Was Born

ALEXANDER

Alexander was born the sixth of Hecatombaeon, which month the Macedonians call Lous, the same day that the temple of Diana at Ephesus was burnt. A birth is dated, and joined to a fire far away.

- Keep "sixth of Hecatombaeon" and "temple of Diana at Ephesus."
- 9–12.
- One life among nine.
- Quote Dryden/Clough.

> *"Alexander was born the sixth of Hecatombaeon, which month the Macedonians call Lous, the same day that the temple of Diana at Ephesus was burnt; which Hegesias"*
> Alexander

05

Nine Greek Lives, Not the Complete Parallel Lives

THE EDITION

Dryden/Clough, 1864, Project Gutenberg #674. Nine Greek Lives only, removed from their Roman pairings; not the complete Parallel Lives. The same Gutenberg volume also supplies The Fall of the Roman Republic; name the selection you are in. For grades 9–12. War: no gore spectacle. One map cannot teach nine lives entire. Quote this English.

- Name nine lives only; do not call it complete.
- Name Dryden/Clough and PG #674.
- 9–12. No gore spectacle.
- The file opens with Agesilaus, and later epitomizes Alexander.

> *"Archidamus, the son of Zeuxidamus, having reigned gloriously over the Lacedaemonians, left behind him two sons, Agis the elder, begotten of"*
> Agesilaus

A first life, Agesilaus

Lameness, and toil not withheld

A purpose to epitomize

A birth dated with a far-off fire

Nine lives, not the complete Parallel Lives

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. The file opens with Agesilaus, not with Alexander: "Archidamus, the son of Zeuxidamus, having reigned gloriously over the Lacedaemonians, left behind him two sons."
2. This is a selection of nine Greek Lives in Dryden/Clough (1864), PG #674, removed from their Roman pairings — not the complete Parallel Lives. The same Gutenberg volume also supplies The Fall of the Roman Republic. Name the selection you are in.
3. Of Alexander, Plutarch says he has chosen "rather to epitomize the most celebrated parts of their story."
4. For grades 9–12. War: no gore spectacle. One map cannot teach nine lives entire. Quote this English.

Quotations are verbatim from the John Dryden and others, revised by Arthur Hugh Clough (1864), Project Gutenberg #674, Project Gutenberg #674, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-age-of-alexander/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.