

**Title** – Parenting through the Ages: An Investigation into Familial Grief in *The Iliad* and Modern Times

**Program of Study** – English

**Presentation Type** –Oral Presentation

**Subtype** –Textual or Investigative

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this research is to understand how *The Iliad*, an ancient epic poem, relates to modern issues that parents must deal with every day. This project illustrates the relevance of ancient literature to the present day by showing that these texts have themes pertinent to all times. With the backdrop of war creating intense situations, *The Iliad* portrays realistic sorrow in the midst of families. A careful reading of *The Iliad*, combined with outside sources focused on familial grief, shows that a parent’s grief is present throughout all ages. The study divides the analysis into three different scenarios: parents having to leave their children on a daily basis, parents knowing specifically that their child will die through terminal illness, and parents dealing with the death of a child. *The Iliad* gives examples for each of these situations: Hector must leave his son, Thetis’s son’s death is imminent, and Priam mourns the death of a child. Even though *The Iliad* was written thousands of years ago, this research proves that it still can be applied to situations of our present day. This research will help highlight relevant correlations between modern life and literature, making it easier to connect the two for a better understanding of the ever-present struggles of mankind.