

## Activity Plan. Sappho Fragment 44: Hector and Andromache – A Wedding At Troy

### Objectives

The Sappho animation and documentary are designed to help learners:

- Read and interpret ancient material culture (ancient pottery)
- Understand and appreciate ancient lyric poetry
- Know who Sappho was and deepen their understanding of the Trojan War
- Think about and discuss love, relationships and warfare in the ancient world

**Activities:** Once you've watched the Sappho animation and documentary together, try an activity:

**Compare:** Discuss the differences between the two vase styles. Add some geometric figures to the sheet featuring Sappho to recreate a scene from the myths of Troy or one of Sappho's other poems.

**Storyboard:** Plan a storyboard relating to one of Sappho's performances, including details that you can see on the vase.

**Empathise:** Andromache is arriving at Troy for the first time, newly married to Hector. How do you think they felt? Write a poem about this occasion from Andromache or Hector's perspective.

**Prequel:** Write or storyboard a prequel of your own based on the years before the Trojan War. Who would you focus on? What would they be doing? How far back will you go? What does this add to how we understand the way those characters are during the Trojan War?

**Sequel:** Around 15 years after this wedding, Troy fell. Hector and the other princes were killed, and Andromache was taken as a slave to Greece. Why might Sappho want to think about the wedding when things went so wrong later? Do you think Andromache ever thought about her old home? Write a sequel poem or speech to go with Sappho's prequel. What would Andromache want to say?

### Who was Sappho?

Sappho was a poet whose beautiful poems were known and sung all over the ancient Greek world. She lived on the island of Lesbos in the east of the Aegean Sea, from around 630-570BCE. She created new styles of poetry, writing about being in love with some of the young women that she knew, writing about her brothers going to sea, and writing a prequel to the Trojan War. Her poems would have been sung to musical accompaniment. Sadly none of them survive complete, so we can only read fragments of what she wrote. Even those fragments show us a lot. The fragment of her poem about Troy is known as *Fragment 44 - A Wedding at Troy*.

### About the Vase

This vase was created in Athens in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE. That makes it one of the earliest surviving depictions of Sappho, created within a hundred years of her death. The person who made it could not have known what she looked like exactly, but they have added a name caption to ensure that we know who it is. The vase is a hydria, so instead of having another image on the opposite side, there is a third handle there. Hydrias were used for carrying and holding water, so the third handle was useful for pouring. The style, using a lot of black slip and just a little colour, is known as the Six Style. The vase can be seen in the National Museum in Warsaw, in Poland (number 142333). The other figures in the Sappho animation are created in an earlier style known as 'Geometric'.

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Sappho, based on a hydria in the National Museum in Warsaw, in Poland (number 142333).



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