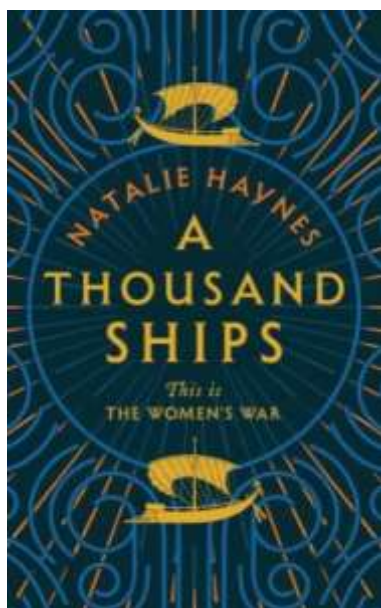


Year 12 Classics Visit to Natalie Haynes Talk



As the school year was drawing to an end, a group of Year 12 Classical Civilisation students visited Kelmscott School in order to listen to Natalie Haynes' views on the Iliad, while also exploring the lack of mention of key female figures of the ancient world in modern works. Her book: 'A Thousand Ships' delves into the significance of women such as Penthesilea, an Amazon queen and warrior, and Helen of Troy, the Queen of Sparta. As

mentioned during the talk, these women perhaps deserve less scrutiny than they have faced and maybe even given more credit, particularly from modern readers. For instance, Helen is often blamed greatly for the cause of the decade long Trojan War due to her abduction by Paris, a Trojan prince. An argument that this was not the case is demonstrated by Natalie's mention of Euripides' Helen, where Paris steals merely a phantom image of Helen rather than the real Helen who was in Egypt.

Attending this talk has no doubt allowed those in attendance to think critically about those whose lives are perhaps not at the forefront of ancient Greek literature and also to listen to the effects of war on the underrepresented, in this case being women.

'A Thousand Ships' by Natalie Haynes is now available in the School Library



Jyothika, Year 12