

Lesser, R. H. (2021) “Sappho’s Mythic Models for Female Homoeroticism”, *Arethusa* 54 (2), 121–61.

Refuting the scholarly contention that Sappho depicts love between women as no different than any other kind of *erōs*, this paper contends that Sappho draws upon the mythic tradition, and especially the *Iliad*, to represent female homoeroticism as “queer” in her poetry. First, it shows how her invocation of Tithonos and Helen as erotic paradigms in the Tithonos Song (Fragment 58) and Fragment 16 figures female same-sex love as non-normative and shadowed by loss, while also symmetrical and idealized. More speculatively, the author proposes that the Homeric Andromache also informs Sappho’s representation of her speakers’ desires in Fragments 16 and 31, and argues that recognizing Andromache’s latent example helps us to understand how Sappho, in these songs, positions female homoeroticism in painful opposition to conventional marriage.