

**LITERATURE****Worksheet for *The Trojan Horse: How the Greeks Won the War*, by Emily Little**

Name two synonyms and anyonyms for each word listed below.

WORD	SYNONYM	ANTONYM
INSIDE		
IMPOSSIBLE		
HOSTILE		
AFRAID		
GIANT		
AGREE		
READY		
HIDE		
CONTINUE		
HELP		

## UPPER GRAMMAR LEVEL

### FINE ARTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. On the Year 1 Art/Activities page of the *Tapestry* website, is a picture of the most famous of the Cretan frescos, *The Toreador*. You can do several projects that will help you observe and enjoy this ancient artwork more. Consult your teacher as to which of these she would have you do.
  - How about making a model of the bull dancers of Crete? Out of light-gauge wire, form the skeleton of the bull and the dancers. Be sure to fashion at least one of the dancers on top of the bull! Using papier-mâché pulp, fill in the wires, forming the “flesh” of the bull and dancers. Then use very small strips as their “skin.” When finished, you can paint and then varnish them if you want a shiny finish. (Week 1 of 2)
  - You could also make a copy of this famous painting using pencils or paints.
  - Finally, you could try the technique the ancients used: painting the picture on wet plaster. The Italians later gave this art technique the name “fresco.” It’s the Italian word for “fresh,” taken from the fact that you must paint the plaster while it’s still wet.
    - Materials for this project:
      - A small (5” x 7” x 1”) disposable aluminum tray (or line a box lid with aluminum foil to create one)
      - Plaster of Paris mix, enough to half-fill the tray
      - Tempa or acrylic paints
      - A sketch of the painting
    - Steps to take in making your fresco:
      - You will have to work very fast, so pre-mix your colors. You might even try to paint a copy of your picture on a piece of paper first so you’ll have a really good idea of how to proceed on the wet plaster.
      - Pour the plaster.
      - While it is still wet, lay your sketch on it. With a sharp pencil, trace the outlines of your sketch so that the lines are impressed into the drying plaster.
      - Quickly paint the plaster as it continues to dry.
      - Allow it to dry thoroughly after you’ve finished painting.

Here are some other activities to attempt this week:

2. Make a Greek yo-yo using Model Magic™.
3. Do you have a hamster or gerbil? Assemble a labyrinth for it out of cardboard.
4. Are you considering dressing as an ancient Greek for the Unit Celebration? With your teacher’s help, plan your costume and shop for fabric and accessories this week. (Week 1 of 2)
5. Build a Trojan horse following instructions in *Ancient Greece! 40 Hands-on Activities to Experience This Wonderful Age*.
6. How about making some model pottery? Archaeologists learn a lot from pottery, and Mycenae was famous for its innovations in this art. You can make very realistic model Greek pottery out of papier-mâché.<sup>1</sup> (Week 1 of 2)
  - You’ll need to start with a shape. Look in art books or on the Internet for ideas (see the Year 1 Arts/Activities page of the *Tapestry* website for links).
    - Some Grecian pottery has a shape that could be formed from the bottom of a bowl or a blown-up balloon. (Cover them with Vaseline so the papier-mâché will come away from the form when it’s dry.) Either leave an open spot in the top in order to get the bowl out, but if you choose a balloon to form your shape, you can close it up and then pop the balloon with a pin once your first layer is dry.
    - Another shape is tall and skinny like a vase, and you can use a vase in your house as a form. Simply cover the vase with the first, thin layer of papier-mâché. Then, when it’s dry, slit it open and remove the form. Using masking tape, you can then put your split project back together and apply further layers of papier-mâché. You’ll never see the seam after that layer dries and paint is applied. Using this method, anything can become a model for your project.
  - After you’ve formed the shape of your “pottery” and the papier-mâché is dry, paint and then varnish it to look like glazed Grecian pottery. Make it as realistic as possible!

<sup>1</sup> The *Loom* has general directions for making and using papier-mâché.

**World Book on the Iliad**<sup>1</sup>

The *Iliad*, pronounced IHL ee uhd, is one of the oldest surviving Greek poems. According to tradition, it was composed by the ancient Greek poet Homer, probably in the 700's B.C. The *Iliad* describes certain events in the final year of the Trojan War, which was fought between Greece and the city of Troy. According to legend, the Trojan War lasted 10 years, until Greece defeated Troy.

According to the *Iliad*, the Trojan War was fought over Helen, the beautiful wife of King Menelaus of Sparta. Helen had been taken from Sparta to the city of Troy by Paris, a son of the Trojan king, Priam. Menelaus's brother, Agamemnon, led an army of Greek heroes to bring Helen back to Sparta.

The *Iliad* is divided into 24 books (sections). The story covers 54 days. Most of the action takes place in the Greek camp, inside the walls of Troy, and in nearby areas. A quarrel develops between Agamemnon and Achilles, the greatest of the young Greek heroes. Achilles feels he is not being adequately rewarded for his services to the Greeks. Agamemnon, in turn, feels that Achilles does not have enough respect for his position as commander of the army. Achilles withdraws into his tent and refuses to fight. Without Achilles, the Greeks are driven back to their ships by Trojan forces led by Hector, another of Priam's sons. Achilles's closest friend, Patroclus, goes to fight in Achilles's armor to help the Greeks. Hector kills Patroclus, which arouses Achilles to seek revenge. Achilles then kills Hector outside Troy. He keeps Hector's body, until Priam comes to plead with him. Achilles takes pity on Priam and gives him the body for proper burial. The story ends with Hector's funeral.

For nearly 3,000 years, readers have found the *Iliad* a moving expression of the heroism, idealism, and tragedy of war. In addition to the battle scenes, the *Iliad* tells about life within Troy. It describes the emotional farewell between Hector and his wife, Andromache, who foresees his death. Hector is a great soldier. But he basically represents the family man who is called on to defend his country and, in so doing, loses his life. The poem also deals with issues of honor and social obligation.

**LITERATURE: LOWER LEVEL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS****Answers to Lower Grammar Worksheet on *The Trojan Horse: How the Greeks Won the War***

Expanding young students' vocabulary is one goal of reading. An exercise such as this serves as one step toward preparing the student for reading more advanced works. Answers can vary.<sup>2</sup>

WORD	SYNONYM	ANTONYM
INSIDE	<i>inner, interior</i>	<i>outside, exterior</i>
IMPOSSIBLE	<i>unbearable, unmanageable</i>	<i>possible, bearable</i>
HOSTILE	<i>warlike, aggressive</i>	<i>friendly, sympathetic</i>
AFRAID	<i>scared, fearful</i>	<i>bold, confident</i>
GIANT	<i>huge, gigantic</i>	<i>small, tiny</i>
AGREE	<i>consent, concur</i>	<i>refuse, disagree</i>
READY	<i>prepared, willing</i>	<i>unprepared, unwilling</i>
HIDE	<i>conceal, disguise</i>	<i>reveal, display</i>
CONTINUE	<i>maintain, persist</i>	<i>stop, cease</i>
HELP	<i>support, encourage</i>	<i>hinder, afflict</i>

1 From a *World Book* article entitled *Iliad*. Contributor: Cynthia W. Shelmerdine, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Classics, University of Texas, Austin.

2 All of these are taken from [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com).

### Answers to Upper Grammar Worksheet on *D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths*

Drawing symbols of gods or other figures encourages the student to form a perspective about each. This will give you, the teacher, insight as to how your child is viewing and understanding the role of these foreign gods. Symbols or illustrations only need to be made for nine gods or figures. Some sample answers:



### Answers to Dialectic Questions on *Black Ships Before Troy*

Define and discuss the term "epic" with your student. Note that the original tellings of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* are epic poetry.

#### World Book on epic<sup>1</sup>

**Epic** is a long narrative poem. Almost all epics tell about the heroic deeds of divine beings and people in war or travel. In many epics, the hero is a demigod, born of one human parent and one divine parent. Some cycles (series) of epic poems developed around a hero or event. Many epics tell how a nation or people began. Some were created by several unknown authors over a long time. Other epics were written by one author.

Epics date back to prehistoric times. The earliest ones were sung by poets who accompanied themselves on a stringed instrument. These epics had no established text. The singers composed each line as they sang it, following the outline of a traditional tale. But every singer memorized certain descriptions, incidents, phrases, and scenes that could be used in making up verses. This method of composition is called *oral formulaic*.

In Western literature, epic poetry began with the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Scholars believe these two works were composed by Homer, a blind Greek poet who may have lived during the 700's B.C. Both epics belonged to a cycle of poems based on the partly historical, partly mythical Trojan War. Homer's works served as models for later poets.

Greek and Roman literary critics prescribed rules for epics based on the style of Homer and his most important follower, the Roman poet Virgil. These rules stated that epics must begin *in medias res* (in the middle of things). That is, the story had to begin after much of the action had already taken place. Poets also had to write in a dignified style and begin with an "invocation" in which they asked a Muse for divine inspiration.

During the Middle Ages, Greek and Roman epics and their rules were largely forgotten. Poets wrote epics in a more natural style. By the 1600's, the Greek and Roman models had been rediscovered. The English poet John Milton imitated Homer and Virgil in his epic *Paradise Lost* (1667). Beginning in the 1700's, the acceptance of realistic prose fiction, especially novels, helped lead to the decline of epic poetry.

Your student has been asked to write several sentences for each question posed on the worksheet. The amount of detail and information that your student supplies will reveal a good deal about his understanding and how he is assimilating the information into his personal worldview. Be prepared to discuss his answers with him. The following answers are provided as samples: your student may choose other characters for each question.

If you could help anyone in your story, who would it be, and why?

*The book opens with the chapter entitled "The Golden Apple," in which Helen is tempted away from her husband by Paris. For Helen to understand that "charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting" (Proverbs 31:30) would have enabled the Greeks and Trojans to have avoided a great deal of turmoil. Helping Helen to value her worth as a wife would provide a greater victory than would a wooden horse.*

*Continued, next page...*

<sup>1</sup> From a *World Book* article entitled *Epic*. Contributor: Paul B. Diehl, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Director, The Nonfiction Writing Program, University of Iowa.