



STEP INTO READING®

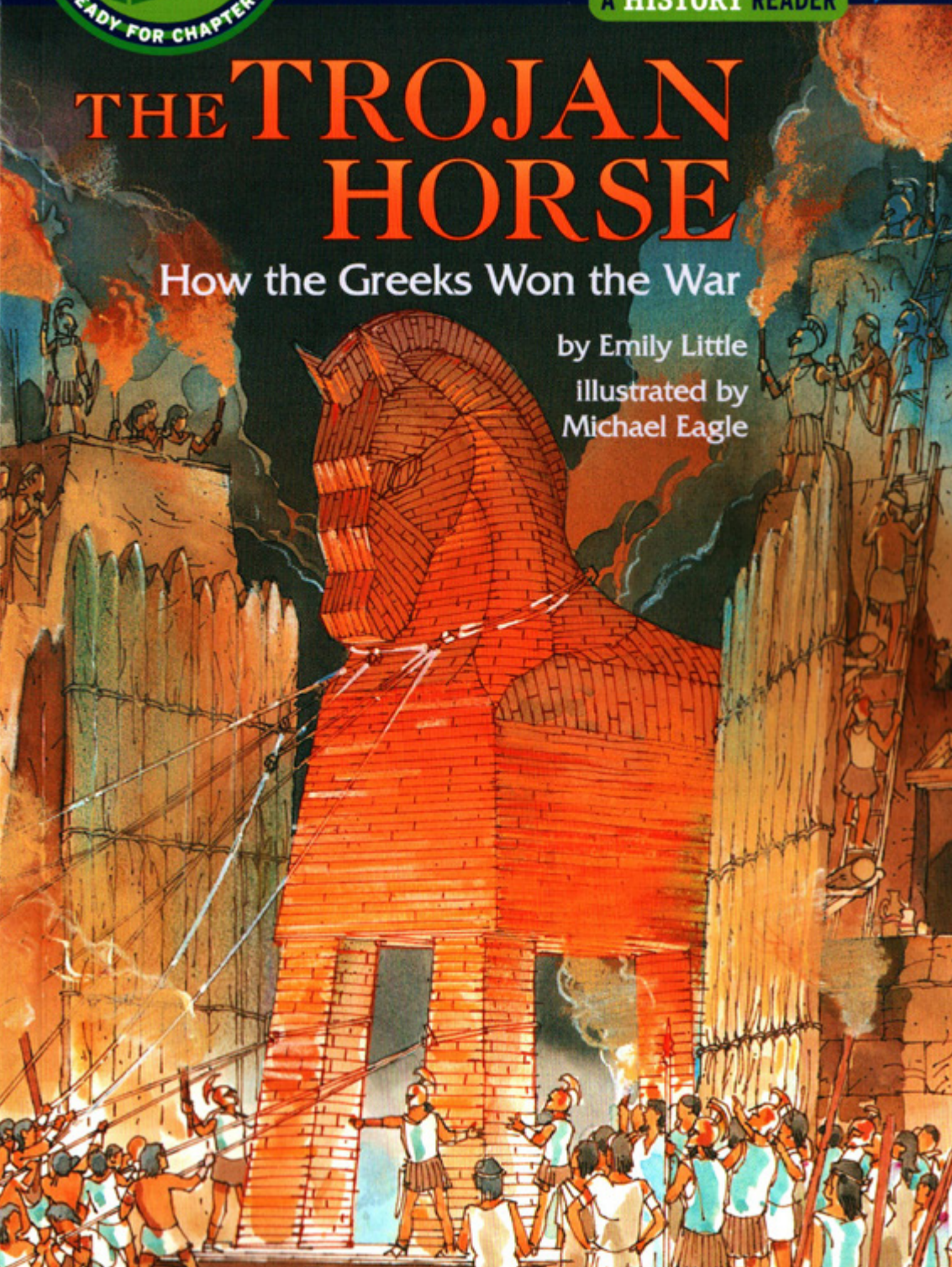
A HISTORY READER

# THE TROJAN HORSE

How the Greeks Won the War

by Emily Little

illustrated by  
Michael Eagle



## Dear Parents,

Welcome to the fascinating world of non-fiction! Here you will find natural science, biography, history, sports . . . and more.

**STEP INTO READING® NON-FICTION READERS** include a huge selection of high-interest topics to engage young readers. No child can resist finding out about such topics as:

- **Animals, both fuzzy and fierce**
- **Brave, bold, and brainy people**
- **Wild weather, such as twisters**
- **Life in the time of ice mummies or the Age of Dinosaurs**
- **Supersized trucks that leap into the air**

Why should children read non-fiction? The benefits are enormous. First, children build their vocabularies, encountering words that may not come up in ordinary conversation but are needed to increase reading comprehension.

Second, non-fiction introduces children to a writing style that supports learning. When explaining new concepts, non-fiction writers often compare one thing with another. Comparisons make learning easy and fun.

Third, children build their store of background information. Context helps readers make important content connections, whether they are reading about history, biography, or natural science.

Last but not least, non-fiction books raise questions and motivate children to find answers.

The Common Core State Standards call on us to prepare children for college and careers by teaching them to read, write, and discuss non-fiction. **STEP INTO READING® NON-FICTION READERS** can help children meet this goal while enjoying informative, age-appropriate books.

Happy reading!



Myra Zarnowski  
Professor, Elementary and Early Childhood Education  
Queens College, City University of New York

Look for an F&P Text Level on the back of every book.



## Learning to Read, Step by Step!



### **Ready to Read** **Preschool–Kindergarten**

• big type and easy words • rhyme and rhythm • picture clues  
For children who know the alphabet and are eager to begin reading.



### **Reading with Help** **Preschool–Grade 1**

• basic vocabulary • short sentences • simple stories  
For children who recognize familiar words and sound out new words with help.



### **Reading on Your Own** **Grades 1–3**

• engaging characters • easy-to-follow plots • popular topics  
For children who are ready to read on their own.



### **Reading Paragraphs** **Grades 2–3**

• challenging vocabulary • short paragraphs • exciting stories  
For newly independent readers who read simple sentences with confidence.



### **Ready for Chapters** **Grades 2–4**

• chapters • longer paragraphs • full-color art  
For children who want to take the plunge into chapter books but still like colorful pictures.

**STEP INTO READING®** is designed to give every child a successful reading experience. The grade levels are only guides; children will progress through the steps at their own speed, developing confidence in their reading. The F&P Text Level on the back cover serves as another tool to help you choose the right book for your child.

Remember, a lifetime love of reading starts with a single step!

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This book has been officially leveled by using the F&P Text Level Gradient™ Leveling System.

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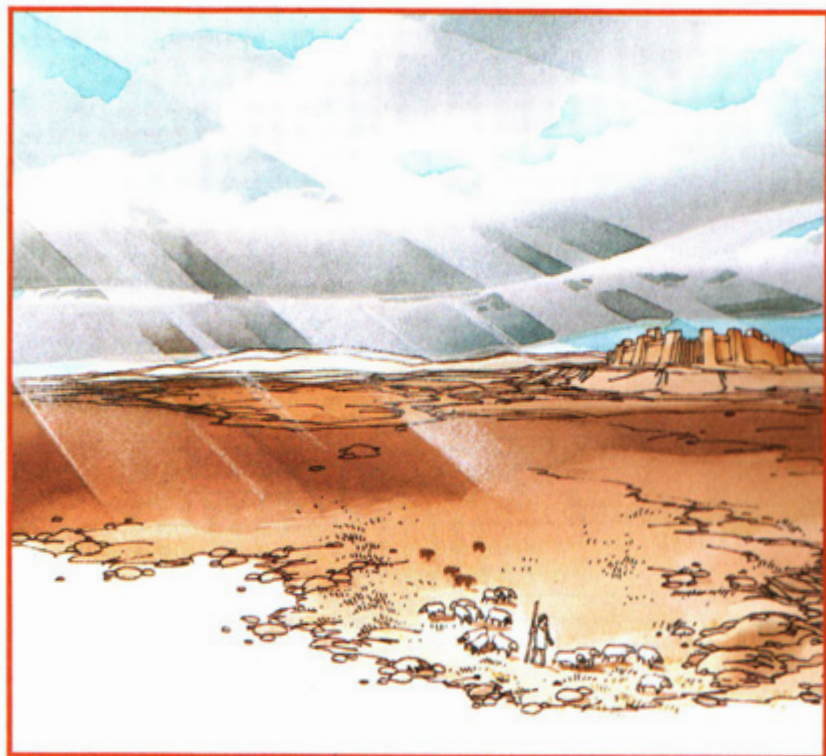


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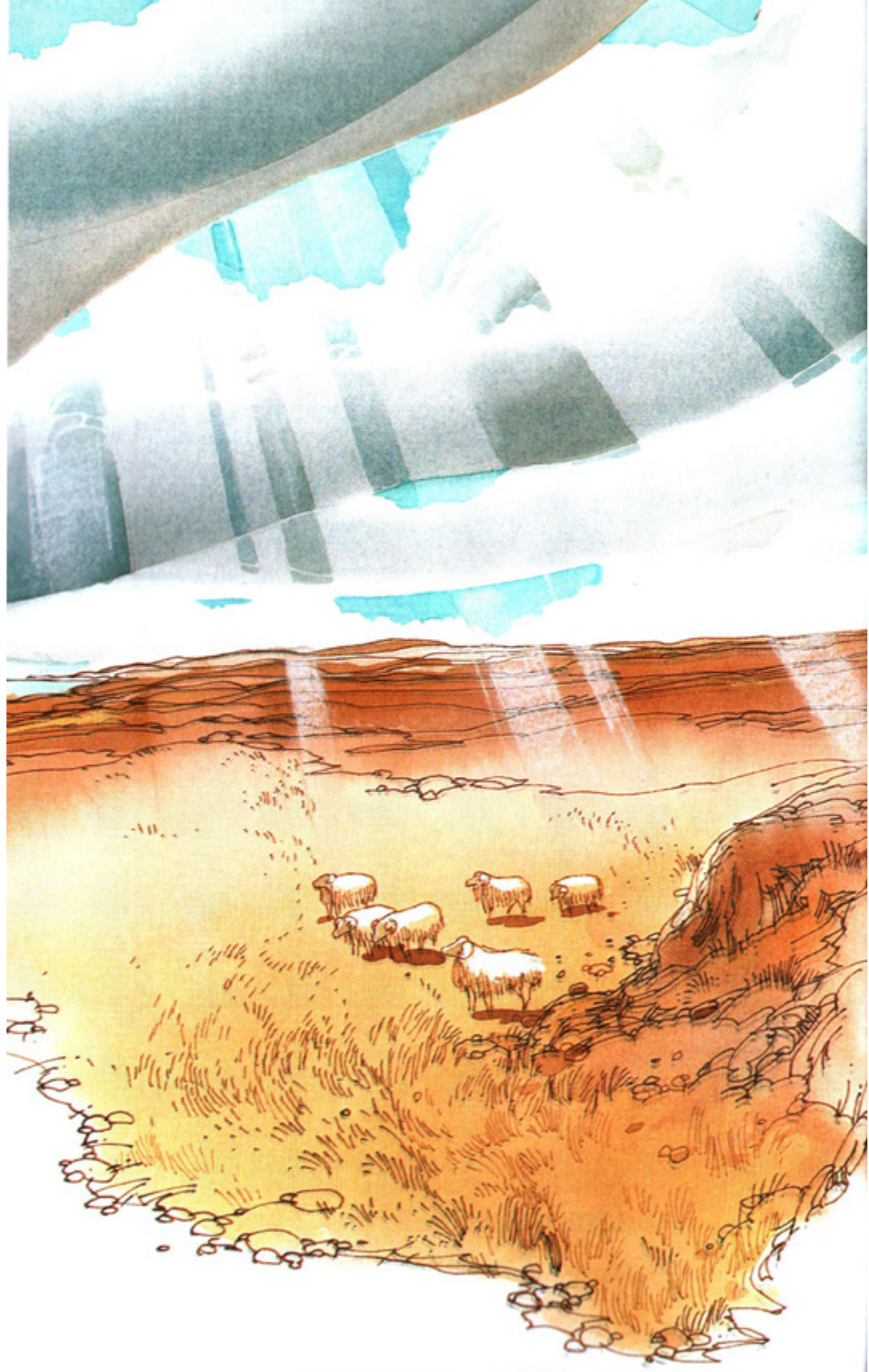
# THE TROJAN HORSE

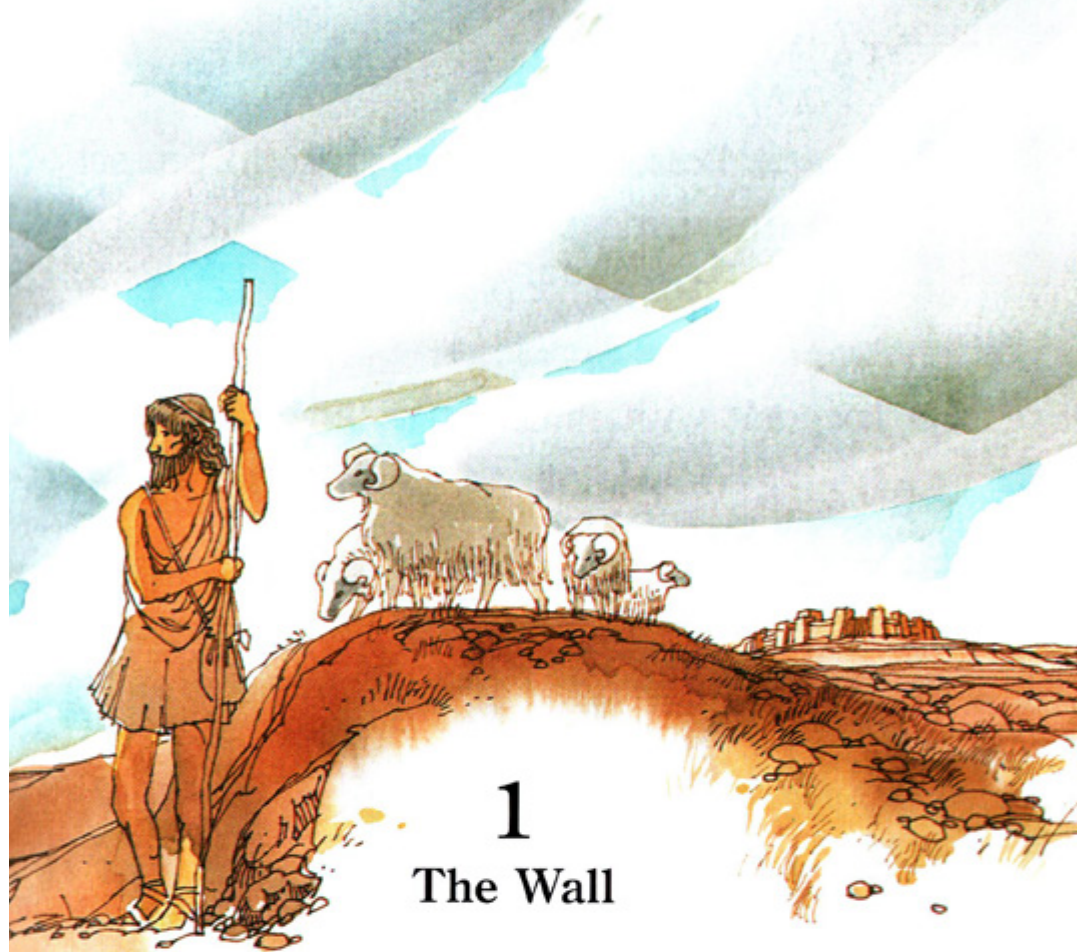
How the Greeks Won the War



by Emily Little  
illustrated by Michael Eagle

Random House  New York





# 1

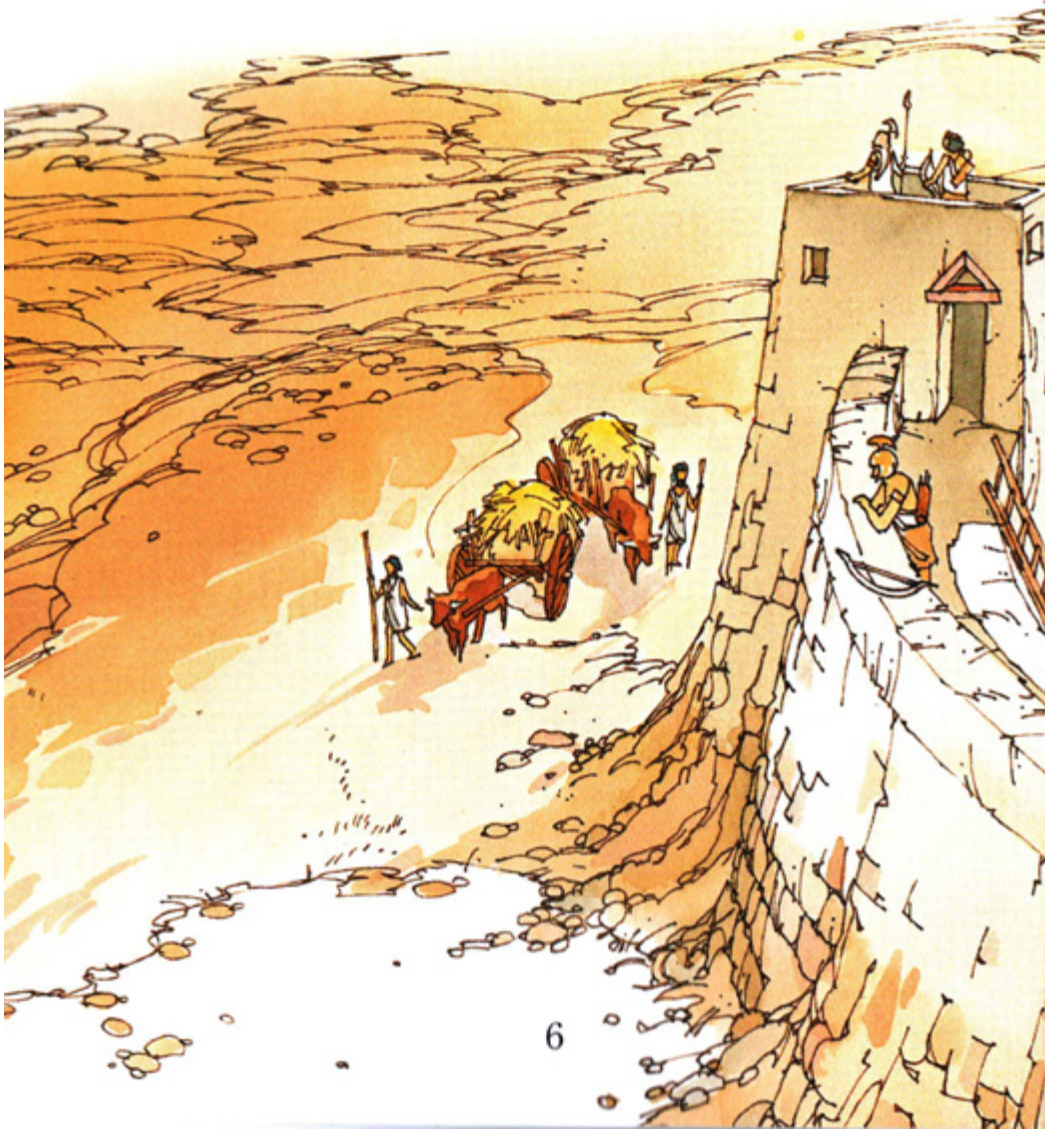
## The Wall

It is three thousand years ago in the land now called Turkey. A shepherd stands above a grassy field, watching his sheep. To the west the sea sparkles in the sunlight. To the east the dusty plain stirs in the wind.

About four miles from the sea there is a great stone wall built on a hill. Inside the wall there is a rich, proud kingdom.

It is the ancient kingdom of Troy.

The wall around Troy is there to protect the city. It is made of stones that men cut and fit together. In some places it is very high and very thick. The lower part of the wall is covered with limestone. The limestone makes the wall slippery. Climbing up the wall is impossible.





At the top of the wall there are places where the Trojan bowmen can stand. Here they can pull back their bowstrings and let their arrows fly. So going over the wall is impossible too!





There is only one way into Troy—through the great double gate. Shepherds go through, with their bundles of wool. Plowmen go through, with their carts full of vegetables. Traders go through, with their treasures of gold and silver and bronze.



Gatekeepers guard the gate day and night. If a hostile army is coming across the plain, they close the gate and push in the bolts. Behind the bolted gate, behind the stone wall, Troy is safe.

Troy is an important city in the ancient world. And Priam\*, the king of Troy, is a very powerful ruler. He has many allies. He rules the land and sea for miles around. But King Priam is not content. He wants to be more powerful than the Greeks, who live far away across the Aegean Sea.

The Greeks speak the same language as the Trojans and believe in the same gods as the Trojans. But they are enemies, not friends!

The land where the Greeks live is rocky and hilly. They cannot grow enough wheat. They must sail to Asia to buy more. But to get to Asia the Greeks must pass through a narrow channel of water that connects the Aegean Sea with the Black Sea. Troy is located at the very entrance to this channel.

King Priam takes advantage of this! When a Greek ship full of cargo sails past Troy, the Trojans stop it. They demand a toll. If the Greeks want to go by, they must pay!

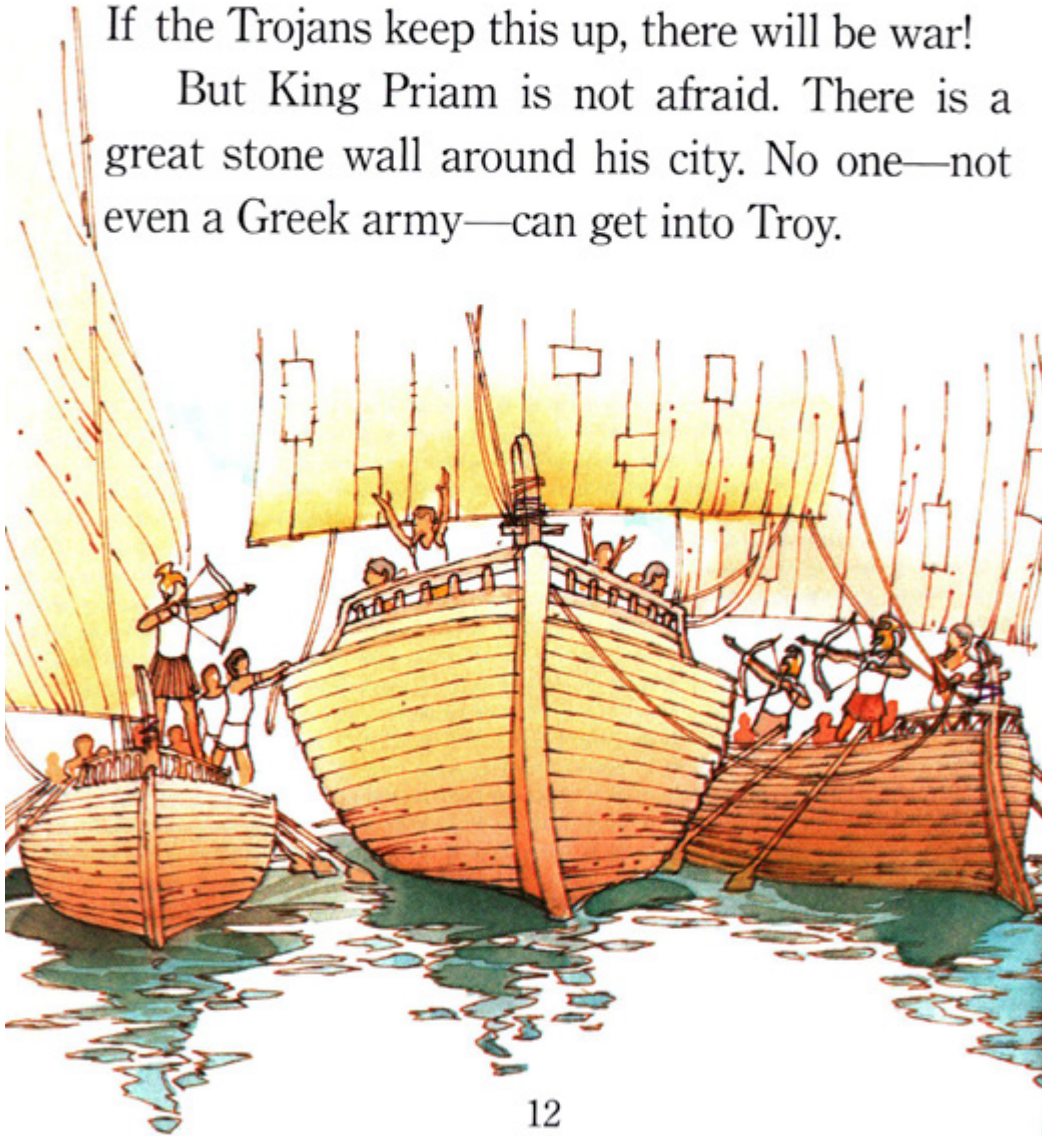
*\*A pronunciation guide can be found on page 48.*



Cargo ships are big and heavy. They are not made to go fast like warships. So the Greeks have to pay the toll—with bags of wheat, jars of oil, bars of gold.

The Greeks are furious. Why should they have to pay to use the channel? The sea is free. If the Trojans keep this up, there will be war!

But King Priam is not afraid. There is a great stone wall around his city. No one—not even a Greek army—can get into Troy.





## 2

### War!

In the Greek kingdom of Sparta, King Menelaus paces the floor and plans his revenge. Something terrible has happened. The Trojans have captured his wife, Helen. They have taken her to Troy.

Helen! She is the most beautiful woman in the world. And now she will be forced to marry Paris, prince of Troy!

Menelaus plans to go to Troy with his army.



The Greeks have been fighting the Trojans for ten years. They wonder how they will ever storm the walled city of Troy. Then they come up with a clever trick. Find out how the famous Trojan Horse changed the outcome of the war.

Are you ready to take the plunge into chapters?

Do you still like books with colorful pictures?

This book is just right for you!

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F&P TEXT LEVEL **Q**

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