

**READER 1:** Beauty can be a curse. Helen's beauty was so breathtaking that more than a hundred suitors asked for her hand in marriage.

**READER 2:** Helen's popularity was a difficult problem for her father. He did not want to create division in the Greek states, so he made all the suitors promise to defend Helen if anyone should ever try to kidnap her.

**READER 3:** Then, he selected Menelaus to be Helen's husband. Helen and Menelaus were very happy until the gods intervened.

**READER 4:** Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty, promised Paris, a Trojan prince, that he could have Helen as his wife.

**READER 1:** Paris sailed to the home of Helen and Menelaus, captured Helen, and took her to Troy.

**READER 2:** Helen went willingly because she had been placed under a spell by Aphrodite. Helen thought she loved Paris, so she became Helen of Troy and lived with Paris as his wife.

**5/HELEN:** I am Helen. It is said that my face launched a thousand ships. I guess that is true, for a thousand ships of Greek warriors came to rescue me after I was taken by Paris.

**READER 3:** For ten years, the war raged. Troy was besieged by the Greeks, but the siege was not completely successful.

**5/HELEN:** The city of Troy was located on a hill and surrounded by heavily fortified walls. The city also had secret escape routes, so the citizens manoeuvred to bring food and supplies into the city.

**READER 4:** Heroes on both sides fought and died. Then Odysseus came up with a plan to end the war.

**6/ODYSSEUS:** Let us pretend to leave. Then, the Trojans will relax, and we can enter the city and destroy them.

**7/SINON:** They will not believe us.

**6/ODYSSEUS:** They will, if we plan well. Let us build a giant wooden horse. The horse should be large enough to hold thirty soldiers with full armor.

**7/SINON:** How will we hide such a horse?

**6/ODYSSEUS:** We will build a wall. The horse will be made behind the wall. When the horse is finished, we will break down the wall and leave the horse on shore for the Trojans to discover.

**7/SINON:** How will that help us? The horse will be outside the city just as we have been for ten years. We cannot break the strong Trojan fortifications.

**6/ODYSSEUS:** The Trojans will take the horse into the city. Here is my plan.

**READER 1:** Odysseus explained his plan to the Greeks, and they began to work.