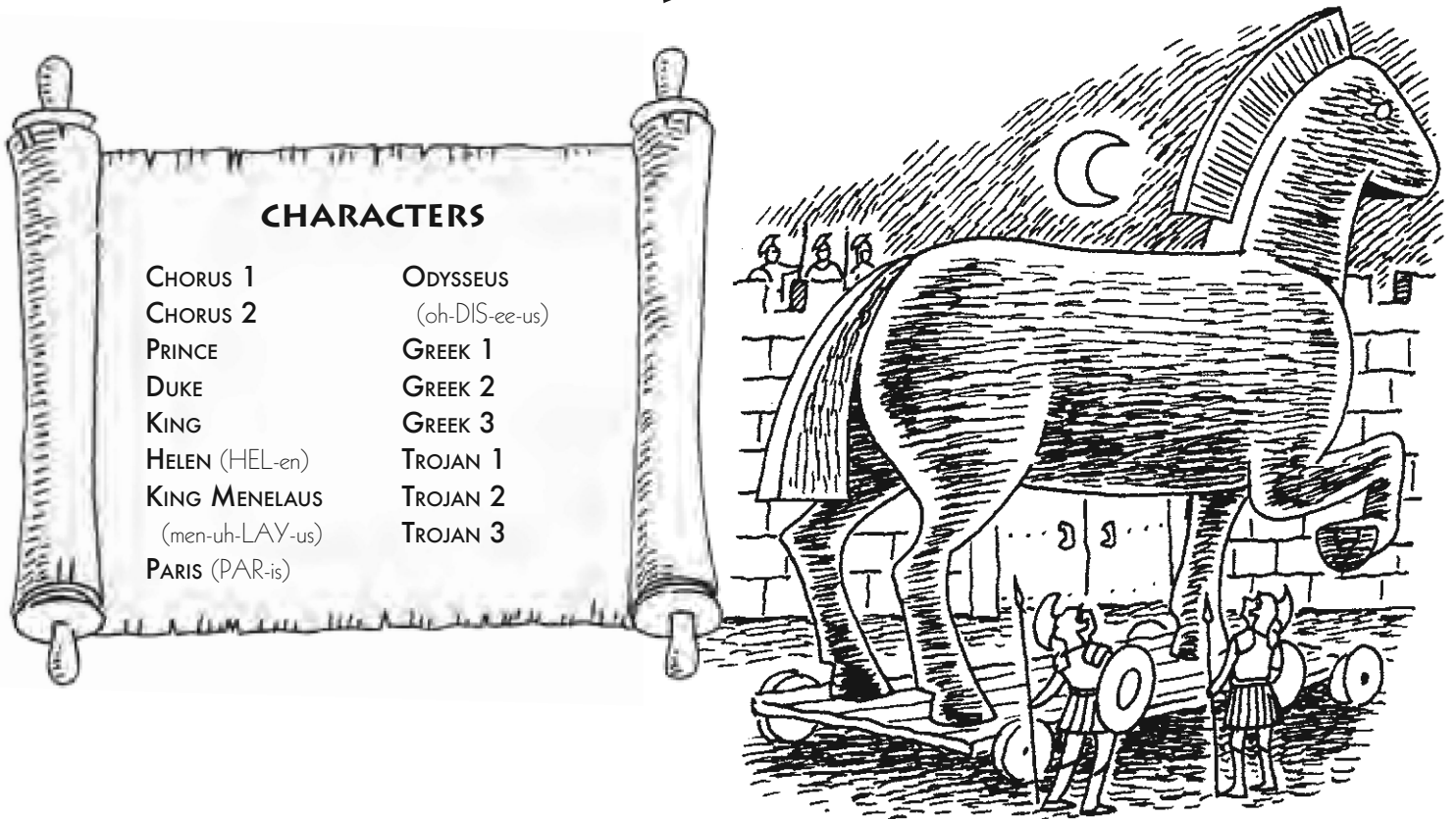


THE TROJAN HORSE



- CHORUS 1:** Once there was a woman named Helen, who was the most beautiful woman in all the world.
- CHORUS 2:** Every man in the land wished to wed Helen.
- PRINCE:** What a divine goddess. If only she were mine.
- DUKE:** Step aside, Princey. If Helen will be anyone's, she will be mine.
- KING:** Tough luck, chums. Surely Helen would prefer a king!
- HELEN:** It isn't easy to be me!
- CHORUS 1:** Helen did eventually choose a king to marry. King Menelaus of Greece became the husband of the beautiful Helen and the envy of every man around.

CHORUS 2: But there was one man, Paris from Troy, who would not give up on winning Helen, even after she was married.

PARIS: I will win Helen's love. I must! (*Calling Helen*) Helen! Oh, Helen!

HELEN: Yes, who's there?

PARIS: I am Paris from Troy. Please come away with me to Troy. Surely you are not happy with King Menelaus, for he is old and tired while I am young and strong.

HELEN: No, I love my husband. I cannot leave him to be with you.
(*She turns away*)

PARIS: (*To audience*) I must have Helen. Okay, if she won't go with me willingly, then I have no choice.

CHORUS 1: Paris stole Helen away from her home and brought her to Troy.

HELEN: Help! Help!

CHORUS 2: King Menelaus was heartbroken.

KING MENELAUS: Woe is me! My beloved Helen has been taken from me. Whatever will I do? Now I am alone. Boo, hoo!

GREEK 1: Hey, what's this whining, King? You are a powerful man, handsome, brave, and wise.

GREEK 2: He's right. Enough crying. You must fight to get Helen back.

GREEK 3: Yes! And we will help you. We'll go to war to take Helen back!

CHORUS 1: And the Greeks did go to war. The war between the Greeks and the Trojans lasted for ten years with no outcome.

HELEN: All this over little ol' me?

CHORUS 2: The Greeks knew they had to come up with something new. And they knew just the man to do it: young Odysseus.

ODYSSEUS: King Menelaus, I have an idea. It's a bit unusual, but I hope you will indulge me by listening to me and considering my plan.

CHORUS 1: Odysseus told the King and his court his plan.

GREEK 1: That's ridiculous!

GREEK 2: It will never work.

GREEK 3: A wooden horse indeed!

KING MENELAUS: Enough! Odysseus, I'll admit you have a strange plan, but since nothing else has worked, I think we will try it.

ODYSSEUS: Thank you, your majesty. Let's get to work!

CHORUS 2: The Greeks got to work, building a giant wooden horse that they would offer to the Trojans as a peace offering. The Greeks would also pretend to sail away from Troy.

CHORUS 1: But in reality, the Greeks would hide inside the horse and attack the Trojans when they were asleep.

CHORUS 2: Finally, they were done building the horse. Some Greeks pulled the giant horse to the gates of Troy and hid inside.

TROJAN 1: What is this? A giant wooden horse?

TROJAN 2: *(Taking the note from the horse and reading it)* Here's a note: Dear Trojans, we give up. You win. Here's a gift for you to help make things right between us.

TROJAN 3: Hah! Those cowards! Still, it's a nice horse and will look great within our walls. Come help me pull it through the gates so we can show Paris.

CHORUS 1: Meanwhile, the Greeks were getting impatient inside the horse.

GREEK 1: It worked! We're going in!

GREEK 2: Good thing. I'm hot and cranky.

GREEK 3: Well, sit tight and be quiet! It won't be long now!

CHORUS 2: The Greeks stayed still until nightfall. Then, when the Trojans went to sleep, the Greeks jumped out of the horse, and that was the end of Troy.

CHORUS 1: The Greeks grabbed Helen and brought her back to King Menelaus.

CHORUS 2: And they lived happily ever after.

HELEN: Beauty sure has its price!

THE END



Glossary

mortal: a human being

wed: to get married to someone

chums: friends, buddies, or pals

envy: the wish that you could have something that another person has or do something that he or she has done

willingly: doing something readily and eagerly

woe: great sadness or grief; sorrow; suffering

outcome: result

indulge: to let someone have his or her own way

coward: someone who is easily scared and runs away from frightening situations

cranky: acting in an annoyed way; grouchy

nightfall: the period of time at dusk when the light of day is ending and night begins