HERB and LOIS WALKER'S

TAKE PART!™
Read-Aloud Story Scripts

THE TROJAN HORSE
TEACHER SCRIPT

BY
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READING LEVEL: GRADES 6-9
THE TROJAN HORSE

CAST OF EIGHT

READER 1 - Narrator
READER 2 - Narrator
READER 3 - Narrator
READER 4 - Narrator
READER 5 - Helen
READER 6 - Odysseus
READER 7 - Sinon
READER 8 - Laocoon

Arrange four music stands and four chairs as shown.
VOCABULARY LIST

intervened v. came between, interceded
launched v. caused, set in the water
siege n. act of surrounding and isolating in battle
fortified adj. armed for an attack
skeptical adj. having doubt, questioning
dismantled v. pulled down, took apart
tribulations n. severe trials or sufferings

FOCUS AND FOLDERS

Ask your readers to speak directly to the audience, not to each other. This is called "storyteller focus." Readers will focus upon the audience just as a storyteller focuses upon the listeners. (It is sometimes helpful for readers to focus eyes slightly above heads of audience members.)

Place cast scripts in colorful folders. (Ring binders allow for smooth and easy page turning.) Place folders in front of or on chairs or music stand before reading begins. Readers should hold folders at chest level and away from their bodies so that listeners can see facial expressions and hear clearly.

MOVEMENT AND ACTION

This Teacher Script version of "The Trojan Horse" includes movement and action directions which may be used if preparing readers for a more formal, elaborate performance of the story. These directions appear only in the Teacher Script. Disregard directions, if you have chosen a simpler readers approach.

ENTRANCES

THE NARRATORS, READERS 1, 2, 3, and 4, walk into reading space in a single line. All carry folders in same hand (left or right) and walk together, in unison. Readers do not march, just walk in an organized, orderly fashion.

THE CHARACTERS, READER 5/HELEN, READER 6/ODYSSEUS, READER 7/SINON, and READER 8/LAOCOON, enter the reading space from the opposite side and sit in their chairs.

Cast members open the scripts and the reading begins.

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(WHEN CAST IS IN PLACE, THE READING BEGINS.)

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 LIFTS HELEN’S HAND AS IF PRESENTING HER TO HER HUSBAND.)

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

(HELEN PLACES HAND OVER HER HEART AND SMILES.)

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.

(HELEN WAVES FAREWELL AND SMILES.)

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.

(HELEN MOVES HANDS IN FRONT OF HER BODY, WAIST HIGH, AS IF SHOWING THE CITY OF TROY TO A VISITOR.)

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.

(ODYSSEUS STANDS AND PACES AS HE EXPLAINS HIS PLAN.)

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

(SINON HOLDS UP ONE HAND AS IF TO STOP ODYSSEUS.)

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.
(SINON RAISES SHOULDERS AND HOLDS HANDS PALMS UP AT WAIST IN QUESTIONING POSE?)

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

(ODYSSEUS HOLDS UP FINGERS TO NUMBER THE PARTS OF THE PLAN.)

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.

(SINON SHAKES HIS HEAD IN PUZZLEMENT.)

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.

(ODYSSEUS GRABS SINON’S SHOULDERS AND SHAKES HIM SLIGHTLY IN FRUSTRATION.)

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.