Many captivating tales have come down to us from ancient Greece. They tell of great heroes, of goddesses and gods, and of stirring adventures. One of the best-known stories concerns the Trojan Horse. It began when Helen, wife of the Greek king Menelaus, was kidnapped and taken to the city of Troy.

The Greeks assembled a mighty fleet and sailed across the Aegean Sea in pursuit. After landing their army near Troy, they began laying siege to the city, the home of the Trojans. Although many battles were fought outside the city’s thick, high walls, the Trojans kept their adversaries at bay, so the Greeks were unable to force their way inside.

The war dragged on for ten long years. Then one day the Trojan sentinels saw the Greeks sail away! Further investigation revealed that the Greeks had abandoned their camp. The delighted Trojans at once declared the war over and themselves victorious. One thing baffled them, though. The Greeks had left behind an enormous wooden horse. What was it for? The Trojans finally decided that their enemies had left it as a gift to the gods.

Cassandra, a member of the Trojan royal family, warned the citizens of Troy that the wooden horse was a trick intended to bring about the destruction of their city. The Trojans, however, scoffed at her warning. They saw nothing sinister in the “gift” left by the Greeks, and they joyfully hauled the wooden horse through the gates and into the city. It could not have been otherwise. Some years before, Apollo, one of the gods of Mount Olympus, had fallen in love with Cassandra and had given her the ability to predict the future. But when she failed to return his love, Apollo spitefully declared that when she made a prediction, no one would believe her.

The people of Troy rejoiced far into the night. They were too busy enjoying themselves to pay close attention to the colossal wooden horse in their midst. They failed to examine it closely enough to detect the heavily armed Greek soldiers huddled inside, waiting for the right moment. At last the celebrations came to an end as the Trojans grew sleepy and one by one began to slumber. A stillness fell over the city. All seemed tranquil within Troy’s walls.

Then a concealed hatch in the wooden horse opened, and the Greek soldiers emerged, dropping silently to the ground. They quickly overpowered...
the Trojan guards and opened the city gates to admit the rest of the Greek soldiers, who had only pretended to sail away and were now hiding outside. The Trojans paid a terrible price for their **blunder**. Their city was destroyed and many of its people perished; the rest of the **woeful** inhabitants, including Cassandra, were taken into captivity. As for Helen, according to the most popular version of the story, she returned to Greece with Menelaus, and they lived happily ever after.

- Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from the lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.

1. Why were the Greeks and the Trojans **adversaries**?

2. What is the meaning of **woeful** as it is used in the passage?

3. What were two ways in which the **siege** could have ended?

4. What is the meaning of **abandoned** as it is used in the passage?

5. What did the Trojans think when they first saw the large wooden horse?

6. What **blunder** did the Trojans make?

7. How were the Greek soldiers able to hide inside the wooden horse?
8. Why was it necessary for the Greeks inside the horse to remain quiet?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

9. How might the Trojans have **hauled** the wooden horse into the city?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

10. Might the Trojans have seen anything **sinister** if they had looked more closely at the wooden horse?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

11. Why did the Trojans **scoff** at Cassandra's warning?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

12. What might have happened if the Trojans had **overpowered** the Greek soldiers as they emerged from the wooden horse?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

13. Who should have been keeping watch on the wooden horse?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

14. Why was the Trojans' **rejoicing** premature?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________

15. What was the outcome of the Trojan War?

___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________
One of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world was a huge statue of the sun god Helios, erected at the entrance of the harbor at Rhodes, one of the Greek islands. The statue was called the Colossus of Rhodes and stood there for about sixty years until it was destroyed by an earthquake in 224 B.C.E.

The word *colossus* came to be applied to anything that is very large. That is why the United States is sometimes called "the Colossus of the North" by people of South and Central America. *Colossal* is the adjective form of this word.

The ancient Romans regarded the left side as unlucky. Soothsayers, people who were believed to have the power to foretell the future, looked upon signs that appeared on the left as evidence of misfortune. Since the Latin word for "left" is *sinister*, it is easy to see how the word came to have its present meaning.

Haul and hall are homophones, words that sound alike but have different meanings and spellings. A hall is (1) a large room held for public meeting, (2) a passageway providing access to rooms along it, and (3) an entrance room in a building.