

3 The Trojan Horse

15 Long ago in ancient Greece there lived a beautiful woman named Helen.
28 Helen was married to King Menelaus, and they entertained many people at banquets
43 full of wonderful food. One of their guests was Paris of Troy. Paris decided to
58 kidnap Helen and take her away to Troy. Paris took Helen to Troy, but Helen's
72 husband, Menelaus, was so angry that he went to his brother, King Agamemnon, and
86 all the Greeks got together and launched a thousand ships to get Helen back.

100 The Greeks and the Trojans fought for ten years, but the Greeks couldn't break
114 through the thick walls of Troy. Then Odysseus, one of the most cunning Greek
130 kings, had an idea. They built an enormous wooden horse on wheels and left it for
143 the Trojans. The Greeks, in the meantime, sailed away from Troy, but just over the
150 horizon where the Trojans couldn't see them.

161 The Trojans thought the Greeks had retreated. When they discovered the
178 horse, they were so happy the war was over that they pulled the huge horse inside the
191 city walls. The Trojans danced and feasted all night until they collapsed, exhausted.

207 Then during the night a trap door opened in the belly of the wooden horse. The
222 horse was hollow and filled with Greek soldiers! The Greeks opened the gates to the
242 city and let the rest of their army into the city. The rest of the army had sailed back to
256 Troy during the night! Before morning, the Greeks had taken over the entire city.
271 Menelaus got Helen back, but from that day on, people have said, "Beware of Greeks
273 bearing gifts."