# Student Journal

## The Trojan Horse
by Justine and Ron Fontes

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When is a risk worth taking?
Getting Started

What If?

Yesterday was your sister’s birthday. She received some gift certificates and money to use at the mall. She is very excited because she doesn’t usually get to go shopping.

You decide to go to the mall with your sister and your friends. Suddenly, as you are shopping, a thief runs up to your sister and steals her purse. Your sister has all of the money and gifts she received for her birthday in the purse, along with her identification. You and your friends could run after the thief to get back the purse. You could also try to capture the thief and bring this person to justice. If the thief is dangerous, however, you and your friends could get hurt.

Make notes about how this would affect you.

• What would you do in this situation?
• What could be the consequences of what you do?
• What affects the decisions you make about risk-taking?

Connect to The Exchange Question Discuss how this situation could relate to The Exchange Question: When is a risk worth taking? Summarize your discussion.
Introduction

Read the Introduction on pages 9–10 in *The Trojan Horse*. The Introduction will help you understand key concepts in the book. Knowing them will help you discuss and write about the book.

The Introduction includes information about

- the Greek myth that inspired the graphic novel, *The Trojan Horse*
- scholars’ different views about the poet Homer and the history of the Trojan War
- how the Trojan War begins in Greek mythology

After you read the Introduction, answer these questions to check your understanding.

1. Which Greek myth served as the source of inspiration for *The Trojan Horse*? According to some scholars, which author first wrote a version of this myth?

2. Why do scholars disagree over who wrote the story of the Trojan War?

3. According to Greek mythology, how did the Trojan War begin?
**Introduction: Key Concepts**

**Definition Map**

Study the Definition Map for mythology. Write a sentence using the word *mythology*.

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**Key Concepts**

- betrayal
- cautious
- consequence
- mythology
- strategy

**Definition Map**

- What is it?
  - collection of stories
  - way to explain an event

- What is it like?
  - heroic
  - traditional
  - imaginative
  - historical
  - cultural

- Key Concept: mythology

- What are some examples?
  - Hercules
  - Pandora’s box
  - Trojan War

On a separate sheet of paper, create a similar Definition Map for each of the Key Concept words. Write a sentence for each one.
The Trojan Horse

Respond to Pages 12–33

1. **Personal Response**  Odysseus plans a clever way to end the war with the Trojans and allow the Greeks to return home. What strategies do you use in your own life to help you succeed?

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2. **Cause and Effect**  What are the consequences of the Greeks' pledge to defend Helen? Use the word *consequence* in your response.

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3. **Character**  The Trojans do not listen to Cassandra’s and Laocoön’s warnings about the horse. Why do they believe Sinon, who is an enemy, instead? What does this show about the Trojans?

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4. **Generate Questions**  Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

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5. **Conclusions** The Greeks need a strategy to enter the city of Troy and win the war against the Trojans. List the events leading to the Greeks’ solution. Use the **Problem and Solution Chart** to answer the question.

**Problem and Solution Chart**

**Problem:** The Greeks need a strategy to enter Troy.

**Event 1:**

**Event 2:**

**Event 3:**

**Solution:** The Trojans open their city gates to bring in the wooden horse that has the Greek soldiers inside.

What risks are involved in the Greeks’ plan?

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Respond to Pages 34–51

1. **Personal Response**  Cassandra and Laocoön do not trust Sinon, while the rest of the Trojans do. What makes you trust someone?

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2. **Conclusions**  How do the gods influence both the Greeks and the Trojans to be cautious? Use the word *cautious* in your response.

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3. **Character**  Neoptolemus’s father is murdered, Menelaus’s wife leaves him, and the Trojans do not listen to Cassandra’s warnings. Each of these characters faces betrayal. How do they react differently to it?

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**What If?**

4. **Connect**  Look at your notes on **Student Journal, page 2**. Think about what might happen if you faced a risky situation. Compare this to *The Trojan Horse*. Was Odysseus right to risk the soldiers’ lives to save Helen?

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5. **Sequence** The Greeks finally succeed in winning the war against the Trojans. In the ovals, list, in order, the events that lead to the Greeks’ success.

**Sequence Chain**

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

In what way do the Trojans actually help the Greeks to win the war?

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