**Background to the Trojan War** **Name**

Once, there was a wedding; all of the gods were invited to attend except . In her rage, she threw  to the guests. On the apple was the inscription, “.” Naturally, the goddesses present were concerned over the award of the apple. Three goddesses claimed it: , the wife of Zeus; , the goddess of wisdom; and , the goddess of love and beauty.

Zeus did not want to decide, so he sent the goddesses to , where Paris, prince of , was tending his flock. Each goddess wanted the apple, so they each offered Paris something– Hera promised Paris . Athena pledged him  in battle. But Aphrodite promised him . Forgetting his own love, Paris awarded the apple to .

With the help of Aphrodite, Paris sailed to , where he was received graciously by Menelaus. The bride of Menelaus was , whose beauty had attracted many suitors before she married Menelaus. With Aphrodite’s help, Paris carried off . Menelaus immediately called upon the other  for help. They had all agreed to help whoever she had chosen as her husband.

The Greeks came forward to his assistance. was reluctant to come because of his love for his wife Penelope and his son Telemachus. Odysseus tried to pretend to be crazy. The chiefs who came for him placed  in front of his plow, and when Odysseus turned the plow, the chiefs knew he was. Agamemnon was chosen as the leader of the Greeks. Other Greek heroes included: Ajax, Diomed, and Nestor. The Trojans also had famous warriors: Hector, Aneas, Deiphobus, and Sarpedon.

The heroes fought bitterly for  without victory. There was a legend that Troy could not be taken until two famous Greek leaders disagreed. During the 9 years of battle, Agamemnon captured a maiden named Chryseis. Her father was a priest of Apollo. He prayed for vengeance. A pestilence fell upon the Greeks. In the midst of the plague, Achilles accused Agamemnon of being the cause . Achilles declared his part in the war was over and .

In desperation, Patroclus, Achilles’ closest friend, wore Achilles’ into battle. He was slain, and Hector took the armor as . This caused Achilles to return to the conflict. He slew Hector. He then  to shame the Trojans. Achilles was later killed by . When Achilles’ armor was presented to Odysseus,  killed himself.

Odysseus advised the Greeks to build a huge, . Inside, he put a group of fighting men, fully armed. The rest of the Greek army pretended to leave Troy. One priest urged the destruction of the horse. Two huge  came out of the water and devoured the priest, making the Trojans . The Trojans took the horse into the city, and spent the evening . In the middle of the night, the Greeks came out of the horse and opened the city’s gates. The rest of the Greek army was . Troy was completely .