

The Trojan War began when Helen, the queen of Sparta, was kidnapped by Paris, the prince of Troy. The entire Greek army sailed to Troy to get Helen back, but the Trojans blocked the gates to their city and refused to let her go. Even after a long and bloody battle lasting 10 years, the Greeks were still unable to get through the gates of Troy. Then, the Greek hero Odysseus came up with a plan to trick the Trojans. He had the Greek army build a hollow wooden horse, with room inside for dozens of Greek soldiers. They left the horse—and the Greek soldiers within it—outside the gates of Troy. The rest of the Greek army pretended to sail away. All of the Trojan soldiers thought that the Greek army had given up, and that they had left the large wooden horse as a gift to honor the power of Troy. The Trojan soldiers opened the gates of their city and took the horse inside. That night, while the Trojan army slept, the Greek soldiers charged out of a trapdoor in the horse's side, ready for battle. The Greeks destroyed Troy, defeated the Trojan soldiers, and won the war.

Trojan (pronounced TROH-jin)

Odysseus (pronounced oh-DISS-ee-yuss)

(fold)

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Modern situation: a bully unknowingly receives a gag gift from a shy student