

Battle Boy Destroy Troy

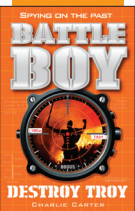
Charlie Carter

Teachers' Notes

Introduction

Napoleon Augustus Smythe (Battle Boy 005) is hurtling through time to the Trojan War. In Greek mythology the Trojan War was waged against the city of Troy by the Greeks, after Paris of Troy stole Helen from her husband Menelaus, the King of Sparta.

In this mission, Battle Boy makes his usual dramatic entrance into the past and finds himself near the city wall, with fireballs in mid-flight and Trojan warriors lined up with their weapons drawn.



Curriculum Links

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HSIE: Significant People and Places

English: Reading, Writing, Talking, Listening, Researching, Presenting

Mathematics: Mapping

Science and Technology: Using Technology, Design and Make

Creative and Performing Arts: Drawing, Drama

Learning Outcomes

Students will have the opportunity to

- read texts independently and in groups
- respond to themes and issues in a text
- draw on a range of skills and strategies to read and comprehend a text
- explain the significance of particular people, actions and events in the past
- locate places on a map
- research a topic of historical significance
- devise, act and rehearse drama for performance to an audience
- present reasons for and against a given argument
- use a computer program to present and display information as well as to research information
- research a scientific creation

Before you read

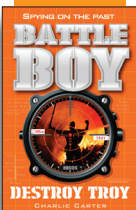
Look at the title and front cover picture of the novel *Destroy Troy*.

Work in pairs or small groups and write a short paragraph suggesting what the story may be about. Read out your group's ideas to the rest of the class and compare ideas.

Read the book

Read *Destroy Troy* as directed by your teacher in one of the following ways

- as a whole class
- in small reading groups
- individually



Stop every now and then to re-evaluate where you think the story may be heading. Discuss your ideas with a friend as well as parts of the story you like and why.

After you read

Use the following questions to promote discussion of the book. Discuss these questions as a class or write the answers down.

1. Where is the legendary city of Troy?
2. What was the objective of Battle Boy's mission?
3. What is a hologram? How do holograms work?
4. How did Battle Boy launch himself into the Battle Books?
5. How many years back did Battle Boy travel?
6. In Greek mythology, who was Ulysses?
7. Who or what was Zeus?
8. Who was a traitor in the story?
9. What happened when Battle Boy tried to tell the people of Troy there were soldiers in the horse?
10. What was the role of Polyxena in the story? How did she influence Battle Boy's actions?

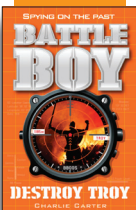
Classroom Activities

A Trojan Soldier

There is a description of what Battle Boy wears for his mission on page 6 of the book. Use this description to sketch what the people wore in ancient Troy. Write a paragraph on how these clothes are different from today.

Translation

Battle Boy's special armour, SimulSkin, contained a special translation device. Use a computer to type in some common phrases, such as those you might need if you landed in a strange place and time. Use a translation program on the internet to translate the phrases into a few different languages. Discuss different ways of communicating with someone who speaks a different language.



Helping Hand

Use page 9 to list the old and new features of the Helping Hand. Write down how these features helped Battle Boy throughout the story. Write down how these features could help you in your everyday life.

Greek ships

Use books or the internet to research Greek ships from Greek mythology. Use everyday objects and craft materials to make a model of a ship from the times of the Trojan War. Display the models around the classroom.

Lights, Camera, Action

Work in groups of five or six. Rehearse a short battle scene from the story and perform it for the class. Decide on an interesting ending for your piece and when the teacher calls 'Freeze!', turn your scene into a photo or painting by staying still.

Greek Mythology

The Greeks had many myths or stories that told about their gods, heroes, nature, religion and rituals. Choose a selection of Greek myths and legends. Read them together as a class and discuss their meanings and what they teach us about the ancient Greek civilisation. Illustrate your favourite myth or legend.

Suits of Armour

Look at pictures or illustrations of different suits of armour. List what parts of the bodies were protected by each piece of armour. Sketch and label each different part of the armour.

Where did it come from?

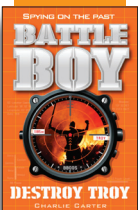
On page 12, Battle Boy crosses his fingers behind his back so his promise of sticking to his mission doesn't count. Have a class discussion and make suggestions as to where this finger crossing tradition may have originated.

Knights, Mounts, Cavaliers

Follow the rules below to play a game of Knights, Mounts and Cavaliers.

Move around to music until the music stops and the teacher calls out either Knights, Mounts or Cavaliers. Quickly find a partner then follow the instructions below.

Knight – one person kneels on one knee while their partner places a hand on their shoulder like a sword.



Mount – one person kneels on all fours and their partner sits carefully on their back as if they were a horse.

Cavalier – one person kneels and the other person sits on their knee.

The last partners to complete the command are out.

If the group has an uneven number the player without a partner will also be out.

There are other variations to the game which you may find on the internet or in a book of games.

A Tasty Banquet

After the fall of Ulysses in *Destroy Troy* the people celebrated with pheasants, ducks, bread, cakes and fine wine. Organise your own feast or banquet. Make a menu listing the different types of food and drink served – be descriptive. Design and make invitations to the banquet and sketch your banquet table.

Holograms

On page 47 there is a description of the hologram that appears when Battle Boy opens the palms of his hands. Read the description and draw your impression of the hologram. Share your drawing with the class to compare the different interpretations.

The Trojan Horse

The Trojan horse is a well-known part of Greek mythology. Use books and the internet to research information about this legendary horse. Use a computer program such as Word, Publisher or PowerPoint to write down the following information.

- the purpose of the horse
- who or what was inside the horse
- a description of the horse
- what the horse was made from
- a picture of the horse
- the plan for the horse
- other interesting facts

Mapping Fun

Use books or the internet to locate where scholars believe the city of Troy was. Use Google Earth to look at this place. Mark it on a map with some of its surroundings.