

## MAIN LESSON ACTIVITY

Dear Class 5,

Lots happened in yesterday's story and some significant characters died in the war. Hector was killed by Achilles' spear and Achilles in turn was killed by Apollo's arrow, going straight into his heel, which was the only place he could be injured after his mother made him invulnerable. Even Paris was killed during the war, but it didn't end the battle which had raged for 9 years. In the 10<sup>th</sup>, Athene inspired the idea for the Greeks to build a massive wooden horse, and inside would hide Greek warriors who would wait until the horse had been taken inside the Trojan gates, by way of trickery, and under the cover of darkness, the rest of the Greek fleet would return to the bay and attack. This was deemed the only way to get into the Trojan walls, and so the horse was built, the camp was burned and the ships appeared to sail away. The Trojans took down part of their wall to fit the great horse inside, because it was said to be an offering to Pallas Athene, and if they claimed it, her protection would be bestowed upon them.

Have you ever heard the saying about Achilles' heel? You might have heard someone say "Well that's your Achilles' Heel showing up there!" or perhaps you heard someone say "My Achilles' Heel hurts."

Well, the way Achilles quite tragically died, after all his mother tried to do to save him, has become so famous that we now have a part of our bodies named after him. The big tendon running down the back of your leg connecting to your heel is called the Achilles' Tendon, and this is where Apollo's arrow struck. This was his only weak place, the only place on his whole body where he could be killed because that was where his mother held him to make him invulnerable.

An Achilles' Heel now also refers to a weakness inside a person, despite all the strengths they might have. For example, someone might be an exceptionally fast runner, but they are a sore loser, so their Achilles' Heel would be losing badly. If we don't pay attention to our weaknesses – just like Achilles didn't – it can lead to our down fall; that person who won every race, perhaps loses one in the Olympics and never recovers because they never thought about their weakness (or Achilles' Heel). So this teaches us that it is important to acknowledge strengths and weaknesses equally, for there are bound to be multiple strengths and weaknesses in every person.

Your task today is to think about and write down in your draft books what one of your Achilles' Heels might be, a weakness you think you have. It can be quite uncomfortable thinking about weaknesses for some people, but try to think deeply. We're not talking about physical weakness here. Then I'd like you to write down what you think you can do to overcome this weakness, and it doesn't have to be achieved in a day! Lastly, please tell your Mum and/or Dad what you think your Achilles' Heel is, but don't tell them what you are going to do to overcome it; that you keep to yourself. Instead, ask them to tell you in the coming days or even weeks if they notice this one of your Achilles' Heels becoming less of a weakness. I bet if you have come up with a good idea to overcome it, you'll think about it a lot and noticeably become stronger in this area!

I just want to say well done on all of your engagement with these activities, some of them have not been easy and I've heard some really creative and mature responses so far – you've really impressed me!