

storytime<sup>JO</sup>

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# WE ARE HEROES

FAMILIES TOGETHER AND APART



IN THIS ISSUE

THE BATTLE  
FOR TROY

ROMULUS  
AND REMUS

**PLUS!** A fun  
quiz, puzzles,  
and a tricky  
crossword!

**This month's *Storytime: We Are Heroes* features two famous and action-packed stories that have a lot to teach us about how families can work together – and how arguments can get out of control!**

'Romulus and Remus' is the tale of two brothers who are betrayed by their wicked great-uncle, but get help and support from each other and adoptive family members. 'The Battle for Troy' is about how a squabble between the Greek gods leads to a ten-year war when a king has to fight to get his beloved wife back.

After reading this magazine, why not have a talk with your child about who they love and rely on in their life – and what ideas they have about how to resolve disagreements with those they care about?

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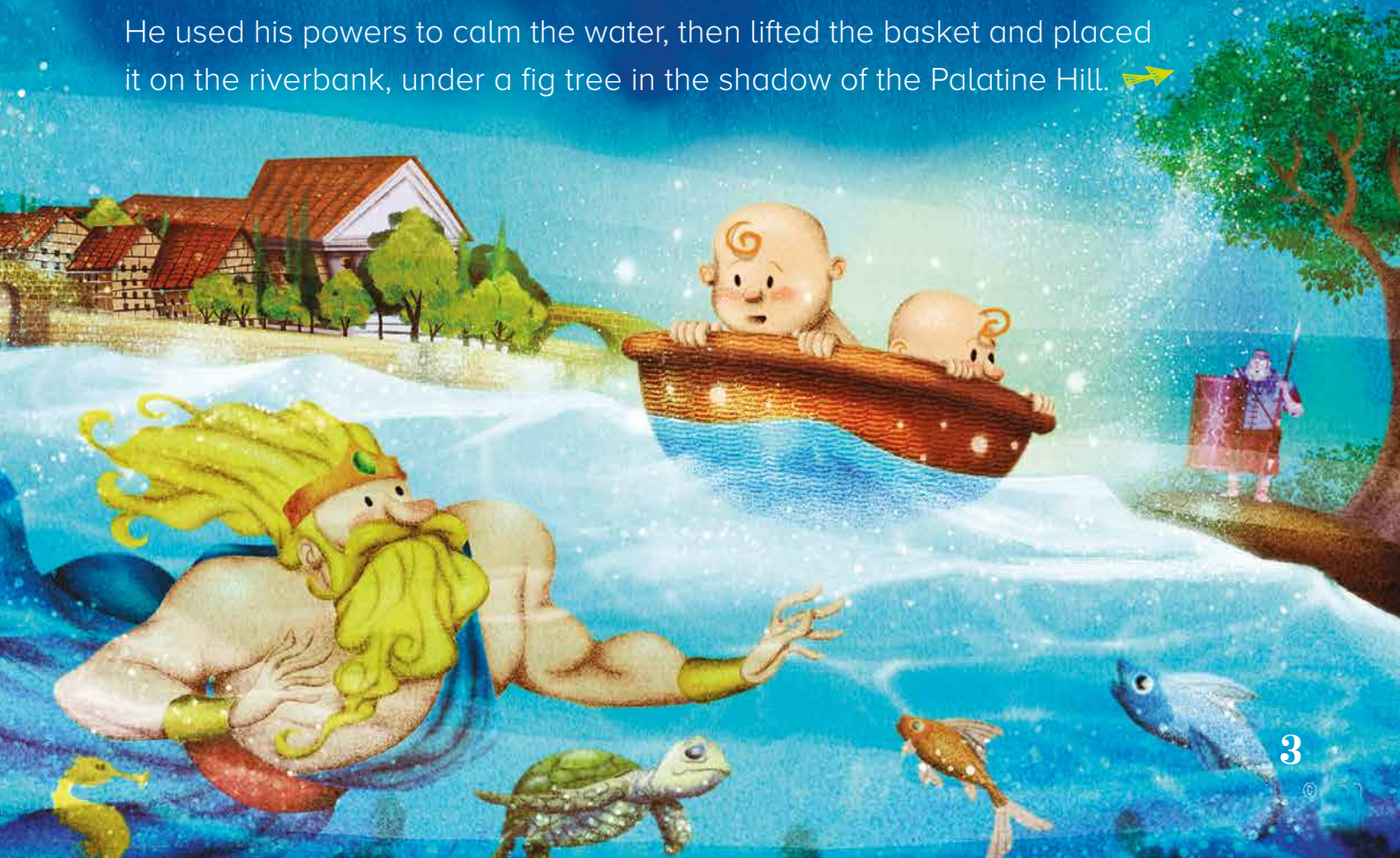
# ROMULUS AND REMUS

**L**ong ago, in Ancient Rome, twin brothers were born to a princess called Rhea Silvia. Their father was Mars – the god of war.

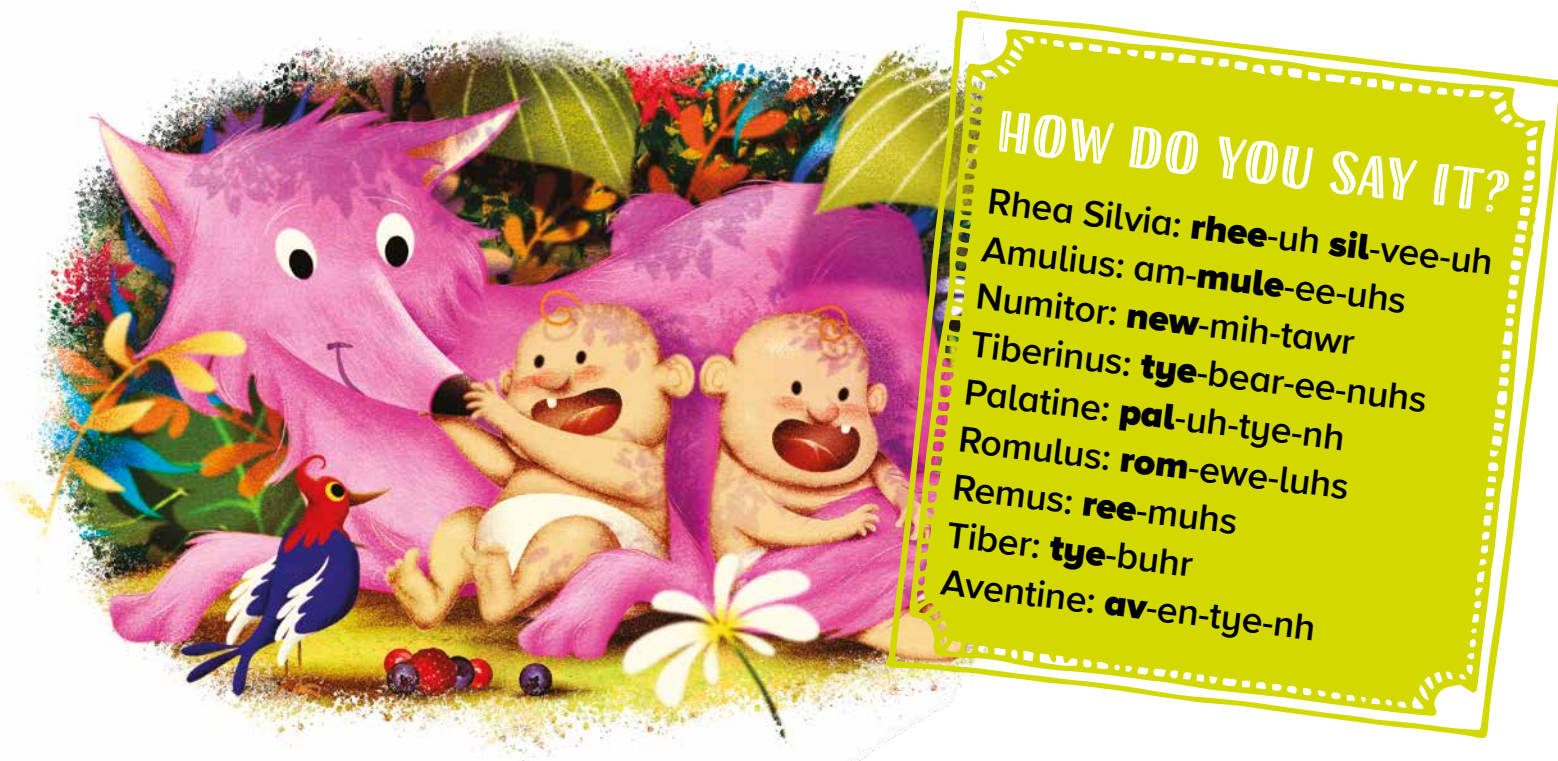
It should have been a happy time, but Rhea Silvia's wicked uncle Amulius had stolen her father King Numitor's throne and made himself king. When he saw the twins, Amulius feared they would one day overthrow him, so he locked up Princess Rhea Silvia and ordered a guard to kill the babies.

But the guard couldn't bear to harm two innocent children and he didn't want to anger the god of war. He put the babies in a basket and placed them on the river Tiber, hoping it would carry them to safety. The river swept the twins along, but when the water began to toss and churn, the babies cried with fear. Tiberinus, the god of rivers, heard their wailing.

He used his powers to calm the water, then lifted the basket and placed it on the riverbank, under a fig tree in the shadow of the Palatine Hill. ➡







**HOW DO YOU SAY IT?**  
Rhea Silvia: **rhee**-uh **sil**-vee-uh  
Amulius: am-**mule**-ee-uhs  
Numitor: **new**-mih-tawr  
Tiberinus: **tye**-bear-ee-nuhs  
Palatine: **pal**-uh-tye-nh  
Romulus: **rom**-ewe-luhs  
Remus: **ree**-muhs  
Tiber: **tye**-buhr  
Aventine: **av**-en-tye-nh

Later that day, a she-wolf found the two boys. She wanted cubs of her own, so she fed and reared the babies with the help of a woodpecker, who brought them nuts and berries to eat.

A shepherd then found the boys living in the wild. He took them home and raised them as his own sons. He named them Romulus and Remus, and the twins grew up to be hard-working shepherds, just like their father.

One day, Romulus and Remus were in their pasture when a troop of King Amulius's soldiers came by. They were hungry and bad-tempered.

"We are the king's guard, and we insist that you hand over your flock to us!" they demanded.

But Romulus and Remus refused. "These sheep belong to our family.

They are our livelihood, and we will starve without them."

But the guards didn't listen. They trampled over the pasture and tried to drag the sheep away.

Romulus and Remus only had wooden crooks, but they fought the soldiers bravely. However, they were outnumbered. The soldiers captured Remus and took him to the king's jail.

Remus was sure to be put to death, so Romulus called a meeting of all the shepherds in the area.

"We have to make a stand," cried Romulus. "The king cannot take what he wants and leave us all to starve!"

The other shepherds agreed and, with Romulus as their leader, they stormed King Amulius's palace.



The king had no idea that Romulus and Remus were the babies he had ordered to be killed – and the twins did not know that the king was actually their uncle.

Remus was freed and, in the clash of swords, King Amulius was killed. Everyone rejoiced, and the people asked Romulus and Remus to be their new rulers.

“No, King Numitor should take his rightful place on the throne,” said the brothers, not realising that he was their grandfather.



Though the twins had turned down the chance to become kings, their success in battle had made them realise that they could be more than shepherds. They set off to found a new city they could rule together.

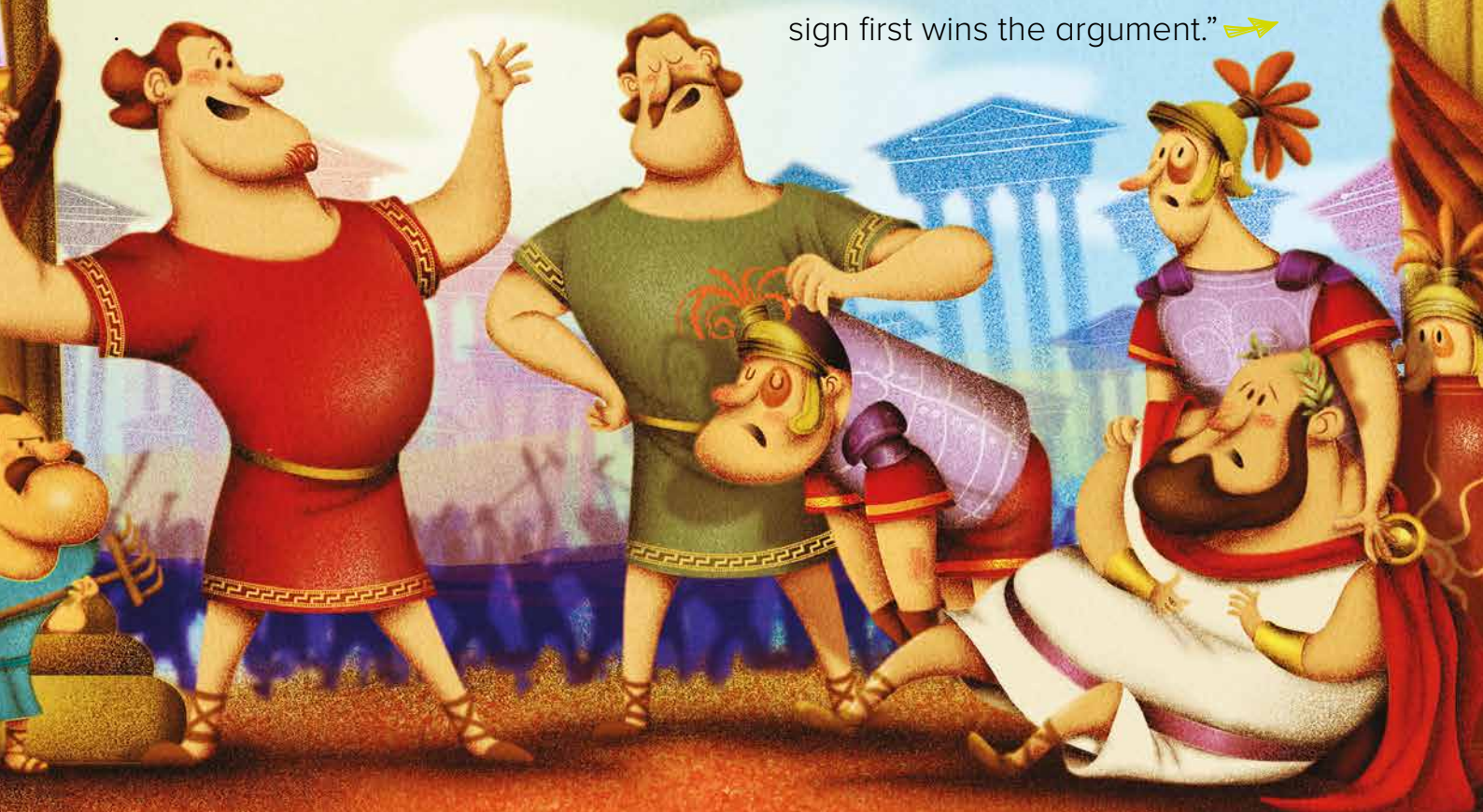
Their journey led them back to the place where they had been found by the she-wolf – the Palatine Hill.

“Perfect!” said Romulus. “The river Tiber is close by, and we can look out for enemies. The Palatine Hill is where we should build our city.”

But for the first time in their lives, Remus disagreed with his brother. “No, brother,” said Remus. “We are too far from the river here. The Aventine Hill is much better and it’s even bigger. The soil is richer there too. We should build our city there.”

Romulus wasn’t convinced and soon the brothers began to argue bitterly.

At last, Remus said, “If we can’t agree, then let’s ask the gods to decide for us. I will stand on the Aventine Hill and you can stand on Palatine Hill and we will ask for a sign. He who sees a sign first wins the argument.” ➡





Romulus agreed, and the brothers set off for the two hills. They asked the gods for a sign and waited patiently.

Soon enough, Remus saw six glorious golden eagles circling above him. He ran towards Romulus to tell him the news but, as he approached, twelve golden eagles appeared in the sky above the Palatine Hill.

"I am the winner," smiled Romulus.  
"Twelve golden eagles, see?"

"No, I am the winner," said Remus,  
"I saw six eagles before you saw twelve. They came to me first, so we'll build our city on the Aventine Hill."

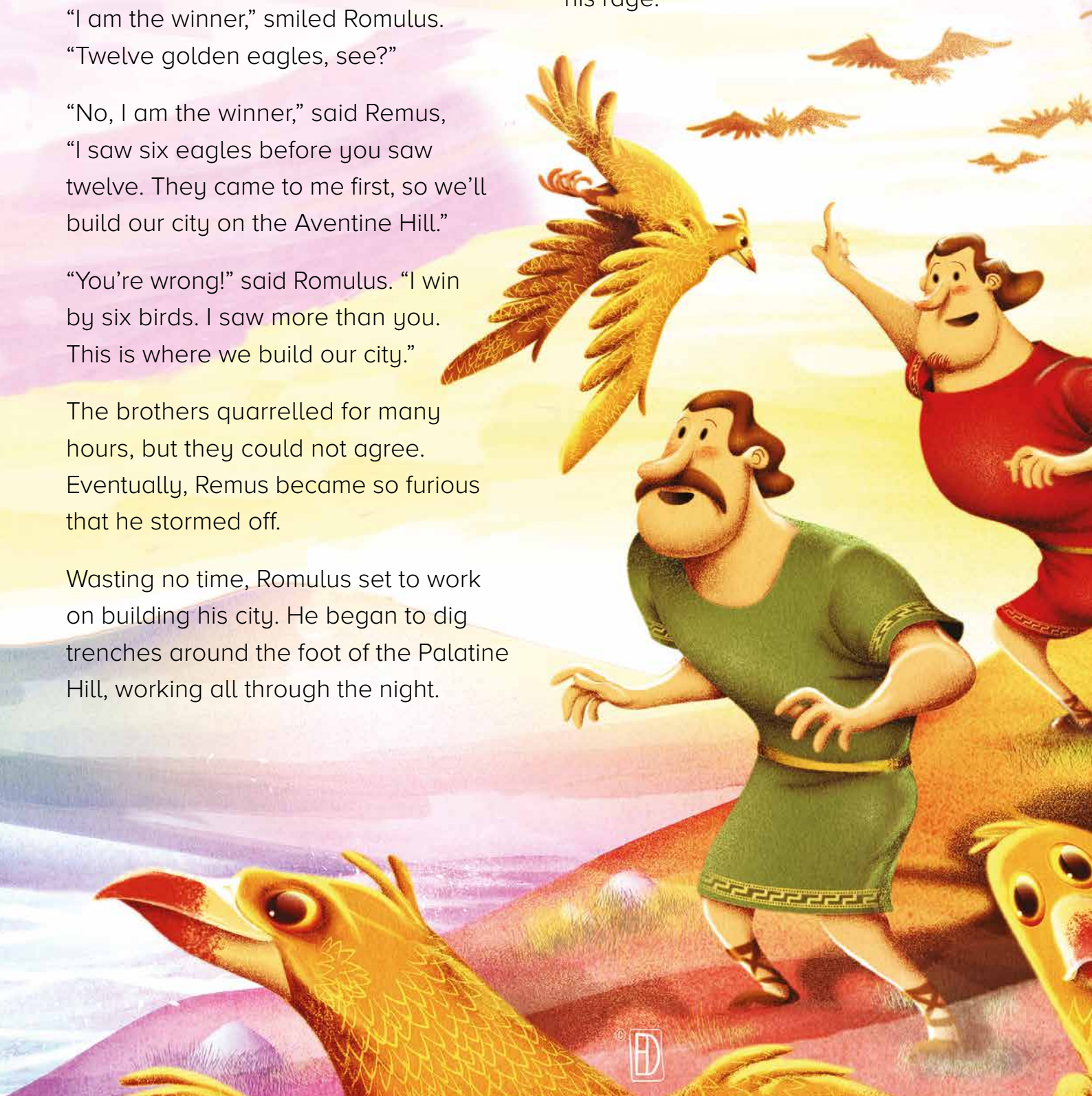
"You're wrong!" said Romulus. "I win by six birds. I saw more than you. This is where we build our city."

The brothers quarrelled for many hours, but they could not agree. Eventually, Remus became so furious that he stormed off.

Wasting no time, Romulus set to work on building his city. He began to dig trenches around the foot of the Palatine Hill, working all through the night.

When Remus returned the next day, he was shocked to see that Romulus had already hired labourers to help him, and he had begun to build a city wall.

Greatly hurt and angered, Remus began to mock his brother. "Is that it?" he said. "A silly little wall for a silly little city!" Remus kept insulting Romulus's work until his brother struggled to contain his rage.





Romulus held his tongue and walked away, but Remus was not about to give up. He jumped over the city wall and followed Romulus, continuing to poke fun at his plans. When Romulus could take no more, he turned round and the brothers began to fight.

In a blind rage, Romulus ran his sword into Remus, who instantly fell to the ground, fatally wounded. Romulus was devastated. In the heat of the moment, he had killed his brother.

After the death of Remus, Romulus grieved for a long time. He never forgave himself for harming the twin brother who was also his best friend.

To take his mind off his loss, he built his city and named it Rome after himself – and he buried Remus there.

Romulus went on to become a great and powerful king, and over the years Rome grew so large that it eventually included the Aventine Hill, where Remus had wanted to found the city, as well as five other hills. Today, these are known as the ‘Seven Hills of Rome’ – the heart of one of the world’s greatest cities. 🌀

In Roman mythology, Romulus suddenly disappeared after ruling for many years. (Some people believe he was swept up in a whirlwind, which took him to the home of the gods.) Meanwhile, his mother, Rhea Silvia, was freed when King Numitor was restored to power, and she married Tiberinus – the river god who saved her sons!





# THE BATTLE FOR TROY

**I**n ancient Greece, Eris was in a foul mood. She was the only goddess who hadn't been invited to an important wedding, and she was deeply insulted.

Eris wasn't on the guest list because she was a famous troublemaker, but she was planning to turn up anyway. She carried the golden apple of discord and on it she had written four words: 'To the most beautiful'.

Just as the gods and goddesses began their wedding feast, Eris pushed her way into the celebrations and threw the apple in front of the three most powerful Greek goddesses – Hera, Athena and Aphrodite.



## HOW DO YOU SAY IT?

Eris: **eh**-rhys

Hera: **hear**-uh

Athena: uh-**thee**-nuh

Aphrodite: aff-ruh-**dye**-tee

Zeus: **zoos**

Eros: **eer**-uhs

Menelaus: men-eh-**lay**-uhs

Odysseus: uh-**diss**-ee-uhs



The goddesses immediately began to squabble over who was the most beautiful and who should have the apple. As their bickering grew louder, Eris smirked and sneaked away.

“Enough!” thundered Zeus, when he heard the goddesses. “I decree that Paris, Prince of Troy, will decide which of you is the most beautiful.”

“A lowly prince?” cried Hera.

“Yes, go to him now!” insisted Zeus.

“Let us celebrate in peace.”

So the three goddesses set off to visit Paris in Troy, each determined to persuade him of her beauty. But Aphrodite had an advantage. She knew that Paris was secretly in love with a beautiful woman called Helen, who was married to the king of Sparta.

When the goddesses reached Troy, they bribed Paris, hoping to win his vote. Athena pledged to make him

a great warrior, Hera vowed to give him vast lands to rule over, but Aphrodite promised him the love of Helen.

“So who deserves the golden apple?” asked Aphrodite, smiling.

“You do,” said Paris, thinking of Helen.



That day, Aphrodite instructed Eros, the god of love, to shoot Helen with one of his enchanted arrows, and then she took Paris to meet Helen.

Thanks to Eros's arrow, Helen fell in love with Paris the moment she saw him. They ran off to Troy together.

Meanwhile, Menelaus, the king of Sparta, had been at his grandfather's funeral. When he returned and found that Helen was gone, he was furious. “That scoundrel Paris has kidnapped my wife!” he raged.

There and then, he declared war on Paris and the city of Troy. ➡





He called upon his many powerful friends to help him rescue his wife. One of these friends was the brave and cunning hero, Odysseus.

Summoning a great army and a fleet of a thousand ships, Menelaus and Odysseus set sail for Troy. However, when they arrived, they found the city was surrounded by a massive wall, and its soldiers were well armed and fearless in battle.



What followed were nine long years of fighting and the loss of many great soldiers. But Paris was a coward, and refused to fight. This made Menelaus even more determined to win.

By the tenth year, his soldiers were exhausted and longed to return home.

This is when Odysseus came up with an unusual idea to finally defeat Troy and reunite King Menelaus with Helen.

“We will build a giant wooden horse,” said Odysseus.

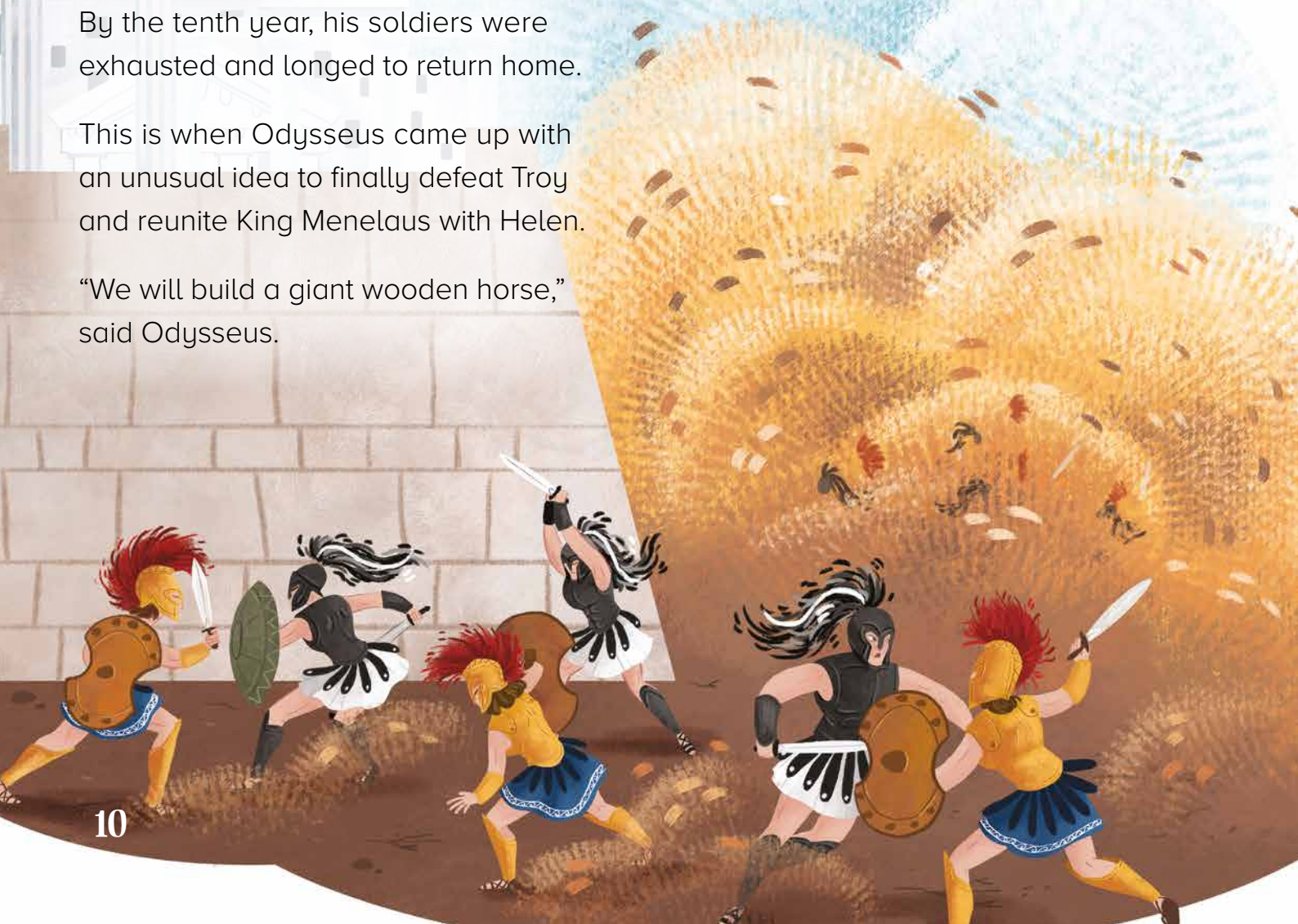
Menelaus and his soldiers raised their eyebrows. For a moment, they thought Odysseus had lost his mind.

He continued. “It must be hollow and big enough to hide our strongest men inside – and with a secret door that nobody can see. The Trojans will think it is a gift for the gods and will move it inside the city. When they least expect it, we’ll jump out and attack.”

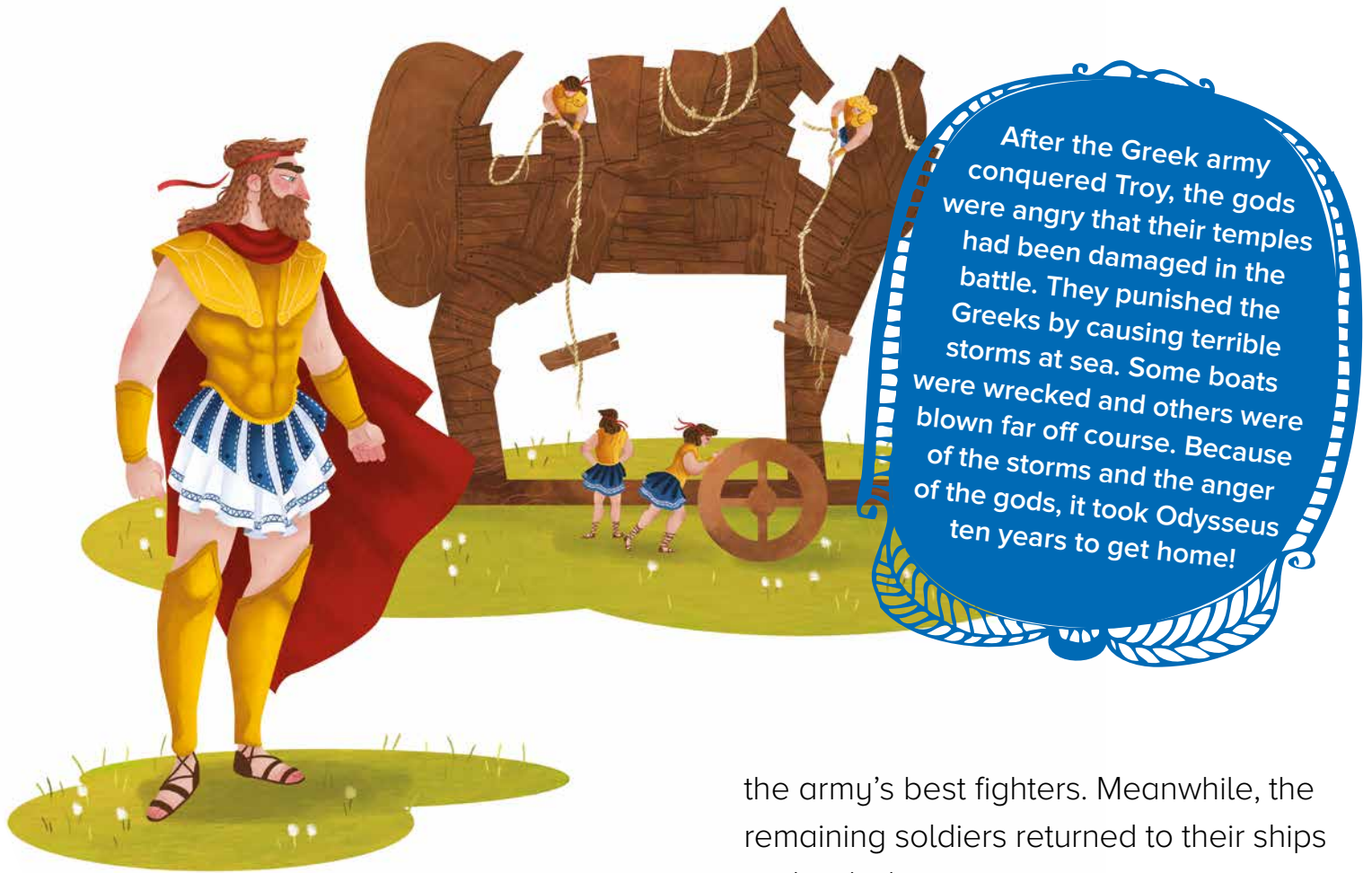
The Greek soldiers shuffled awkwardly. It was a strange plan.

“But even a big horse won’t fit a whole army inside,” said King Menelaus.

“It doesn’t need to – just our finest soldiers,” replied Odysseus.







After the Greek army conquered Troy, the gods were angry that their temples had been damaged in the battle. They punished the Greeks by causing terrible storms at sea. Some boats were wrecked and others were blown far off course. Because of the storms and the anger of the gods, it took Odysseus ten years to get home!

“Everyone else should set sail and drop anchor behind the islands out at sea. The Trojans will believe we’ve given up. You can sail back under the cover of darkness and we’ll open the city gates. Together, we will lay siege to the city.”

Menelaus sighed. “It’s crazy, but it might just work! Let’s get started.”

So the army began to build a giant wooden horse on wheels, with a secret trapdoor that was large enough to fit thirty strong warriors inside.

It took three days to build the Trojan horse and, when it was finished, it looked magnificent. Odysseus and Menelaus climbed inside, along with

the army’s best fighters. Meanwhile, the remaining soldiers returned to their ships and sailed away.

When the people of Troy saw the ships retreating, they were overjoyed. Their enemy had finally given up – the war was over! They threw open the city gates and went to explore the army’s empty camp. They were greeted by the sight of the huge wooden horse.

“What is it?” asked one of the guards.

“It must be an offering to the gods,” said Priam, the king of Troy. “Let’s bring it inside. Athena, the goddess of war, will be pleased. It is an excellent trophy to mark our victory.”

So the Trojan forces pushed the heavy horse inside the city gates. ➡




That night, every citizen of Troy celebrated. But while the festivities were taking place, the Greek army was sailing back to Troy. Odysseus and Menelaus crept out of the wooden horse and flung open the city gates, and the Trojan guards were far too busy having fun to notice.


The Greek army flooded into the city and King Menelaus got his revenge at last. The Trojan army was defeated and the city of Troy was conquered. Odysseus's crazy plan had worked!


When the king found his wife, Helen, he was angry with her at first for falling in love with Paris, but he knew it wasn't her fault. He knew that the Trojan War would never have happened if it hadn't been for the meddling Greek gods! 🌀

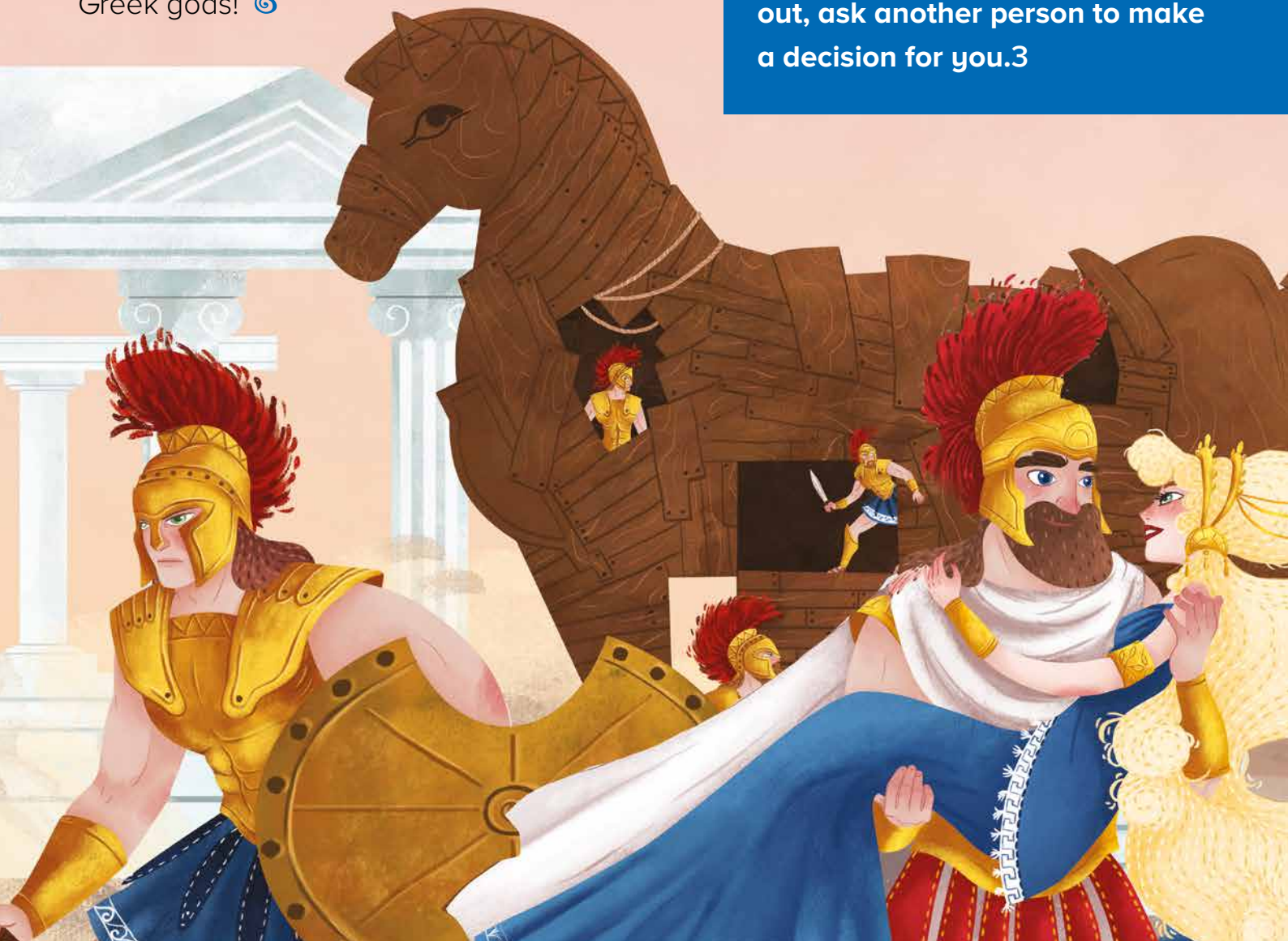
## MAKING PEACE!

The Greeks and the Trojans fought for 10 years over Helen – but here are some better ways to solve arguments!

 **Take a time out! Try going into a different room for a minute or two to calm down, and then talk things through.**

 **Listen to what the other person has to say without interrupting – and make sure they do the same for you.**

 **If you still can't sort things out, ask another person to make a decision for you.<sup>3</sup>**





# STORY QUEST!

This issue's stories are all about arguments that get out of control!  
Can you answer these questions about what happened in the tales  
and what we can learn from them?

1

In the story of Romulus and Remus, which characters helped the twins to survive when their great uncle wanted to get rid of them?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2

Romulus and Remus often work together and help each other in their story. Who are three people that you can trust to help you?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

3

If you look back through the story of 'The Battle for Troy', who was the person who first started the argument that ultimately led to the war? What emotion was this character feeling?

4

Why did Menelaus declare war on Troy?

5

For both Romulus and Remus and Menelaus and Paris, fights turned into tragic battles! What do you think would have been a better idea than fighting?

GREEK JOKE

Knock, Knock!  
Who's there?  
Odysseus!  
Odysseus who?  
Odysseus ridiculous!



ANSWERS: 1. The guard who put their basket in the river, the river god, the woodpecker and the shepherd who adopted them. 3. Eris started the argument that led to the war, because she was feeling angry. 4. Menelaus declared war because he missed Helen and wanted her back. 5. A better idea would have been to talk things out and come up with a compromise.

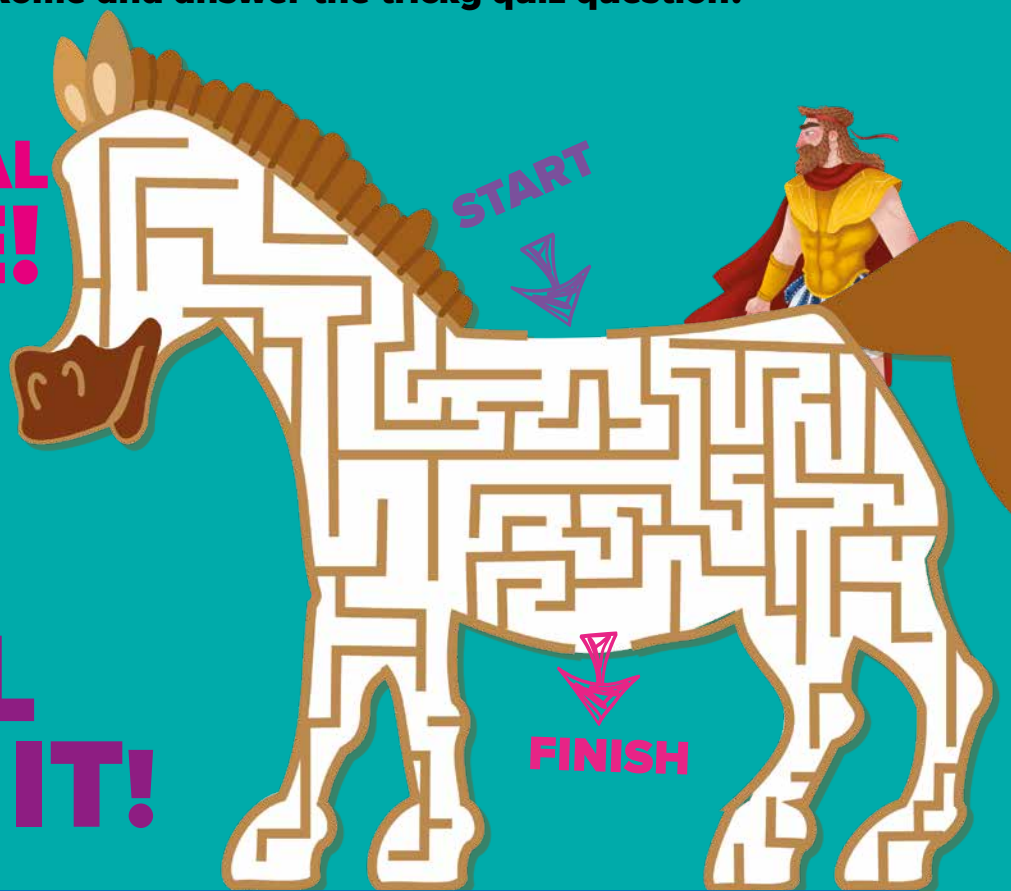


# storytime PLAYBOX

Can you help Odysseus find his way out of the wooden horse, spot all the symbols in Rome and answer the tricky quiz question?







## 1 MYTHICAL MAZE!

Odysseus is stuck in the horse he built! Guide him through the maze so he can conquer Troy!



## 2 ROLL FOR IT!

If you disagree with someone, why not roll two dice each? The total you roll is the number of imaginary golden eagles that appear, and the person that gets the most wins the argument! **If you roll doubles**, check this table to find out what else you have to do!

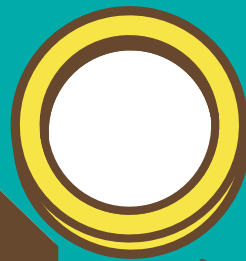
	<b>Give a big smile!</b>		<b>Compliment the other person!</b>
	<b>Pull a funny face!</b>		<b>Sing your favourite song!</b>
	<b>Tell a riddle!</b>		<b>Do a silly dance!</b>



3

## SPOT THE SYMBOL!

Romulus certainly left his mark on Rome! See if you can spot all his symbols on the buildings...

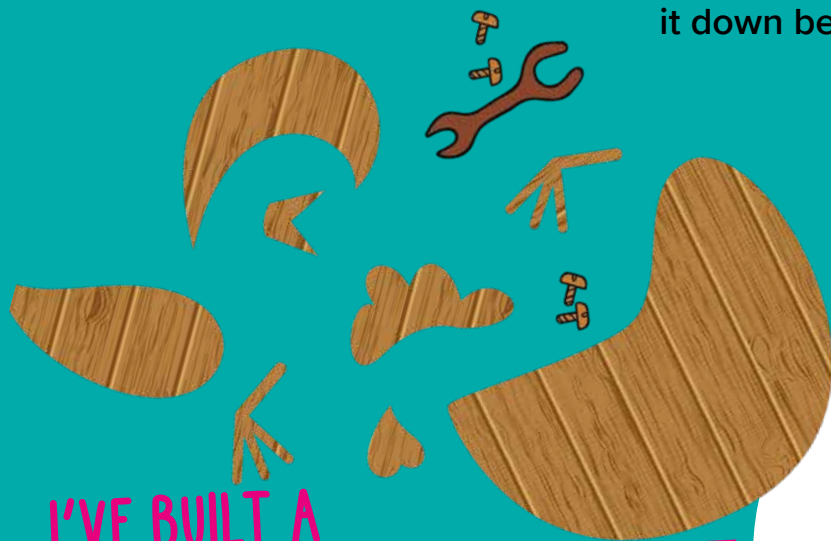


Write the total here!

4

## WOODEN WONDER!

Odysseus has a kit for building a new wooden animal – but he has lost the instructions and doesn't know what it is! Can you work out what these parts fit together to make and write it down below?



I'VE BUILT A

QUICK QUIZ

Who saved Romulus and Remus from the river?

- A. Numitor
- B. Tiberinus
- C. Mars



Answers on next page...



# WE ARE HEROES CROSSWORD

**Fill in the names of characters from this month's stories to complete this tricky crossword!**

## ACROSS

1. Who shot Helen with an enchanted arrow?
6. Who was Romulus and Remus's mother?
8. Which animal raised Romulus and Remus?

2. Who wanted to build on the Palatine Hill?
3. Who came up with the idea of the wooden horse?
4. Who was married to Menelaus?
5. Who was the king of Troy?
7. Which fruit had the words 'To the most beautiful' written on it?

## ANAGRAM TIME!

**Rearrange the highlighted letters to spell the name of the character who was buried in Rome!**

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**ANSWERS:** 1. Mythical Maze – see right; 3. There are 8 symbols; 4. The kit is for a wooden chicken; Quick Quiz – B; Crossword – see right; Anagram Time! – REMUS.

