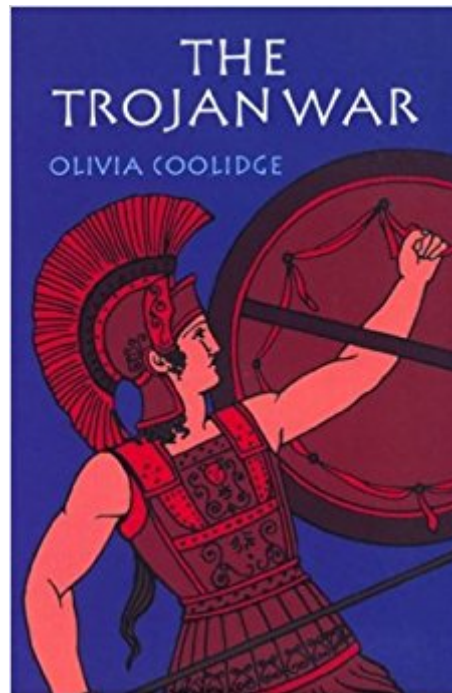




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The Trojan War



Synopsis

In this retelling of the Trojan War, Olivia Coolidge crafts heroes and gods into real, multidimensional characters, not just the figures of legend. Vibrant storytelling and finely wrought action have made her version of the classic tale of the Fall of Troy accessible to generations of young readers.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (2001)

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

"Sequel to the author's Greek Myths, this is written in the same lucid, simple, yet powerful prose." School Library Journal, Starred
"Here for today's readers is one of the world's great stories." Kirkus Reviews

Olivia Coolidge was born in London, England, in 1908. She received her education at Somerville College, Oxford University, where her main subjects included Latin, Greek, and philosophy. These studies helped her earn her place in the pantheon of children's literature through her mythological retellings demonstrating careful research and the ability to bring the past to life.

This book was used in our home school curriculum as a read-aloud to boys 8-11. While it did provide a lot of information about the battle of Troy the layout of the information was bland. The information and characters were packed in but not well developed. Many parts felt rushed or awkward, especially the transitions. There were several times I had to re-read sentences due to awkward use of language. I feel that the author was attempting to speak in an 'old' style, however it often felt wrong and forced.

I first read this book when I was 9 years old. And it triggered a strong desire to learn all I could about Greek Mythology. Where as most books on the Trojan War concentrate on the origins and the Iliad, this book touched on all the different stories circulating about the Trojan War: The death of the first Greek to land on the shore; the Queen's appearance; Odysseus' feigning madness to try and get out of going to war; Paris' death and his nymph sweetheart who he betrayed; the bow of Hercules; the son of Achilles; the madness of Ajax; and many more stories. I read and re-read this book many times. When I finally discovered that it was available in paperback, I immediately bought it and re-read it again. This book contains so many different stories about the Trojan War, the warriors on both sides, their fate, and the background stories that it is hard to put down. Yes, it was written for elementary children and young adults, but even the adults can get lost in this book.

I purchased this book for my 12 year old homeschooled daughter to supplement her world history Ancient Greek unit. The goal was to familiarize her with Homer's story without the poetry of the full stories. Later in 9th grade or so, I will have her read the full Homer stories--this book having laid a good foundation. Both of us read the book and enjoyed it; it perfectly met the goal! I highly recommend it as an introduction to Homer for youth. We enjoyed this book so much that we have purchased two other books by Coolidge: Greek Myths, and, The Golden Age of Greece.

Great price. In good condition, worked for what it was needed for. My son needed it for his mythology class.

Like the war, the book was slow and bogged down with characters. My son struggled to get through The Trojan War for school but it did cover everything.

I teach this to my 6th grade English students (all boys) and though they find it confusing to begin with, every year they are hooked by the time we get to the second section. It gives a strong introduction to the many Greek stories surrounding the Trojan War. My students from prior years still remember the events of the book. I inherited the text from my predecessor when I took over the job, and was not enthusiastic about the idea of teaching it to begin with. I remembered Greek history and myth as dry and dusty. The writing is a little bland and stilted in spots, but the events it retells are vivid enough in themselves to carry the reader's interest.

This is a wonderful translation of the The Trojan war. The language is beautiful and the stories provide excellent discussion material about the follies of human nature. To any who are teaching classically, this is a must. For those who just want to read a simple but beautiful translation of the Trojan War, this is the book.

My 11 year old son loves this book

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