

HFW - READING - UNIT 2

The battle of Thermopylae

This is a true story. It happened long ago in Greece ...

"We must fight", the Spartan* **chief** told his small army of **brave** men. They were at a great **disadvantage**. There were only three hundred of them. The Persian **military** had hundreds of thousands of men.

They were going to lose **unless** they could **secure** a small **entrance**. The **enemy** couldn't move through it easily. They **intended** to stop the enemy here. The chief and his men got ready for the **battle**.

Soon, long lines of the enemy's army **twisted** around the hills. The chief met the enemy with **laughter**. He knew that his men's **weapons** and skills were better. The Spartans **trusted** their leader and **obeyed** him.

First, the enemy soldiers shot **arrows** from their **bows**. The chief told his men to lift their shields**. The arrows stuck into the shields but did not hurt any of the men.

Then, the enemy's soldiers attacked the Spartans with long spears. The chief surprised them. His troops rolled **logs** down on the enemy. They fought for three days. Though they **hardly** slept at all, the chief and his men remained **steady**.

But the enemy found a way to beat the Spartans. The chief and all of his men were killed. Even though they lost, the Battle of Thermopylae is one of the famous battles in history.

*Spartan: a soldier from the city of Sparta in Greece.

**shield: a piece of wood or metal that soldiers carried to protect themselves.

READING COMPREHENSION

1. What is the story about?

- A) How an enemy made an attack against shields.
- B) Why logs were rolled down on soldiers.
- C) How a small disadvantaged army nearly beat a large military.
- D) Why good soldiers obey their leaders.

2. Why was the smaller army not afraid of the larger one?

- A) The larger army didn't have any weapons.
- B) The smaller army had better weapons and skills.
- C) The larger army did not trust their leader.
- D) The smaller army did not intend to fight.

3. The brave men knew they would lose...

- A) Because they heard the soldiers' laughter.
- B) Unless they secured the narrow entrance.
- C) Against the other army's bows and arrows.
- D) Hardly any men fighting the large army.



4. According to the passage, all the following are true about the Persian army EXCEPT ...

- A) Their long lines of soldiers twisted around the hills.
- B) They used bows and arrows.
- C) They had a steady three-day attack against the Spartans.
- D) They used fire to defeat the Spartans.

5. Why did the soldiers do whatever their chief asked of them?

- A) Because they didn't have anything else to do.
- B) Because they liked to kill other soldiers.
- C) Because they trusted him and obeyed their leader.
- D) Because they were afraid of him.