Battle for Athens

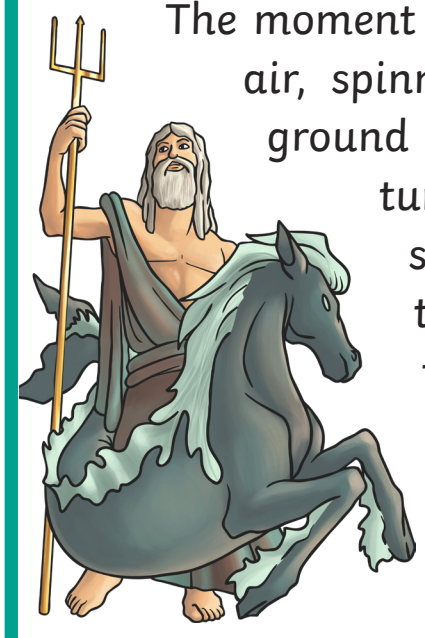
She stood tall against the Acropolis looking towards the city below. Her immaculate hair haloed by the sun. The light breeze felt cool against her skin as she turned to face Poseidon.

"You cannot win, girl," the God of the Sea growled. "This city can belong to only one god."

She eyed him from head to toe. He was huge: truly colossal. With his trident in hand and still dripping having summoned himself from his ocean home. Under a silver mane of tangled hair and beard, his body was muscular and solid. Her uncle was indeed a formidable opponent, second only to Zeus, her father, in terms of power. But he was not unbeatable. "We shall see," she replied, turning her gaze back to the city.

"It is not wise to turn your back, girl!" Poseidon bellowed. She could feel the rocks vibrate as his anger grew. "Face me!"

She smiled slyly but didn't turn. She knew what would happen next.



The moment Poseidon's trident struck the earth, she launched herself into the air, spinning like an acrobat. The mighty earthquake ripped through the ground she had been standing on, sending half the mountain and a tidal wave of water tumbling towards the city below. Athena drew back her spear, twisted her body, struck Poseidon across his helmet and landed gracefully on a cliff edge above. It took Poseidon a few moments to understand what had just happened. He slowly took off his helmet and inspected the scratch. "Hmm," he snarled. "Impressive. Daddy would be proud. Tell me, Athena, Goddess of War and Wisdom, why do you desire this city?"

"The mortals want me," Athena replied simply.

1. Find and write three words or phrases from the text that describe what Poseidon looks like:

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2. Why do you think Athena didn't turn around when Poseidon told her to?

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3. Daddy would be proud." Why do you think Poseidon says this?

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4. Think of three ways that Athena and Poseidon differ in the way they talk and act in the story.

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