

## Rubric and Prompts for the Time-Traveling Teen Dilemma

You will need to imagine that you have time-traveled back to ancient Greece and been plopped into a typical ancient Greek family. You have no way of getting back to the modern day and you may need to stay there forever! In any case, you cannot reveal that you are a modern person (the future would be immediately changed and you might cease to exist!) but must act within the rules of the ancient Greek family. But you are still hoping to be yourself as much as possible!

For the following situation, each group member must play a role: **the time-traveling teen (TTT)**, the Greek father, or the Greek mother. If there is more than three to a group, then the other(s) would play some other Greek person, such as a community member, a slave, or another family member who will take part in the role play.

Your task is to find an outcome or solution for the issue presented and discuss it in a role playing presentation. The best role plays will

- a) be authentic to Greek values as noted in the Guide to Ancient Greek Life and Values; do not let **anachronisms** slip in;
- b) find a creative solution to the TTT's dilemma;
- c) have at least one important piece of **dialogue** for each role; dialogue should last no more than 5 minutes;
- d) and remain serious throughout and not stop; a focused, smooth presentation.

You do not have to write down your dialogue, but you should write down your plan for what will happen along with the important points you want to cover in your dialogue.

The ideal solution is one where the parents feel their values have been respected and the TTT can live with the situation until he or she finds a way to return to the present day.

**\*dilemma:** problem, issue, or challenge without an obvious solution.

**\*anachronism:** an act of attributing a custom, event, or object to a time period to which it does not belong. "He said the ancient Greeks had computer games! If that's not an anachronism, I don't know what is!"

**\*dialogue:** a conversation, script, chat between people

<b>Rubric for the Dilemma Role Play</b>	<b>Disaster!</b> <i>TTT is discovered as a modern person! The world as we know it is in danger...</i>	<b>Safe for Now!</b> TTT might still be in danger!	<b>Win-Win!</b> It all worked out!
<b>Authenticity to ancient Greek life and values</b>	Group had serious difficulty taking into account Guide when they did their role play; TTT and/or parents did not attempt to behave in an ancient Greek way, or actions showed they did not grasp ancient Greek values.	Group recognized and demonstrated key points in the Guide but some anachronisms remained.	The ancient Greek members of the dialogue spoke and reacted in an authentic, ancient-Greek way based on the data in the Guide.
<b>Creative solution to issue</b>	Solution came more from group's personal experiences as modern-day members of a family, relying too heavily on quick-fix or anachronistic thinking, or the solution was not convincing or clear enough about how the TTT would live with the situation going forward.	Solution was clear and had a thoughtful response, taking into account aspects of ancient Greek life and values as well as how the TTT would live with the situation going forward. Some of the solution may have been too easily achieved or include anachronistic reactions from the Greeks.	A win-win situation: Solution was a creative combination of respecting ancient Greek values while also allowing the TTT to live with the situation going forward.
<b>Presentation mechanics</b>	Group was not able to get through presentation in a serious manner or had to start over more than once	Group was serious throughout but may have had to start over again; there may have been an awkward silence.	Group's role play and dialogue was smooth throughout.
<b>Length of presentation and equity of roles</b>	Presentation was much shorter than 2 minutes; not everyone was given an important role in the solution or even said anything that pertained to the solution	Presentation was either fairly short or too long; everyone was given something to say, but the importance of the statements was limited to one or two characters or some participants did too much heavy lifting.	Presentation was full length; everyone had an important part; may have been too long, but didn't matter because everything said made sense for the solution to the problem and so it never dragged.

**Prompts**

1. You are a teenage boy who likes to spend as much time as possible on computer games. In fact, you hope someday to become a professional computer game player or game designer and make your living at computer games. Of course, there are no computer games in ancient Greece. Your father is a farmer with three sons and ten slaves and says you will inherit one-third of the farm and he is feeling poorly; he may die soon. Imagine the conversation you have with your father about your future.
  
2. You are a teenage girl who likes to spend as much time as possible playing a musical instrument. However, your father works very hard on a farm with poor soil and the family is barely making ends meet. You are needed to help the family income by weaving wool into fabric which the family will then sell. Your mother has one slave and one elderly aunt living at home with you. How might you convince her and your father that you should be allowed to do what you want to do at home?
  
3. You are a teenage girl of the age of 15. Immediately after you time travel to ancient Greece, you make friends with a boy down the street. You develop feelings for the boy and he for you. You approach your mother with the idea of going out on a “dinner date” with the boy. The boy is from a family with whom your parents are friends and your father has not decided who you will marry yet, so you figure that your mother will say yes. Instead, your mother flies off the handle, informs your father that you are wild and uncontrollable, and urges him to decide on your husband as soon as possible. Imagine the conversation you have with your mother and father to calm them down about your “mistake” and possibly allow you to continue on seeing the boy you like.

## Prompts, continued

4. You are a teenage boy of 16. Immediately after you time travel to ancient Greece, you make friends with a girl down the street. Now you have developed feelings for the girl and she for you. You approach your father with the idea of going out on a dinner date with the girl. The girl is from a family that is richer and more important than yours, and your father has not decided who you will marry yet, so you figure Dad will say yes. Instead, your father accuses you of thinking that your family is not rich enough and needs rich in-laws. He angrily tells you not to interfere with his decisions about your life. Imagine the conversation you have with your father (other family members may be present) to calm him down and still possibly allow you to continue on seeing the girl you like.
5. You are a teenage boy who likes to spend as much time as possible on reading books. Your father is a farmer and you are his only son. He has two slaves. After two days working sunup to sundown, you are tired and sore and would like to take a day off and rest at home. Your father has been hard on you for working slowly and making mistakes; it is near the harvest season and there is much work to be done. You approach your father with the idea saying that you would like to study the *Iliad*. Imagine the conversation you have with your father and mother about what you should be allowed to do.
6. A large religious holiday in honor of a god is coming up and your mother tells you that you will be in a large group of dancers as part of the parade and celebration through the streets of the polis. You are a teenage girl who hates dancing and has never liked crowds. In fact, you start hyperventilating when you get in crowds—but no one really wants to hear about it, and in fact your family mocks you for being ridiculous. Imagine the conversation you have with your father and mother about this subject.

## Prompts, continued

7. You are an active, athletic teenage boy who finds out the ancient Greek way of conducting school is mostly memorization of the *Iliad*. You can't stand this type of school and have had a bad day acting out; your teacher has notified your parents. Your father is an important man who is active in local politics, owns three farms, and has fifteen slaves working for him. He believes you will follow his footsteps into politics and need to be educated. Worse yet, he has a terrible temper and hates to be shamed! Imagine the conversation you would have with your parents on this subject—to avoid a beating, for sure, but more importantly to convince them that your particular gifts and talents as a person are valuable to the family.
  
8. You are a teenage girl living near the town of Delphi in ancient Greece. Your father tells you that you will become an assistant to the priestess of Apollo who **prophesies** the future for those who come to the temple and one day, with education, you could become the chief priestess. You are a scientific person who has never been interested in religion and you had dreamed of becoming an astronaut one day. Of course, the ancient Greeks are thousands of years away from being able to achieve space travel and think of the heavens as the property of the gods, so you would be revealing your real identity as a modern person if you said one word to your parents about your dream. Nevertheless, you want to be true to yourself. What conversation would you as a scientific person have with your parents about accepting or not accepting this **prestigious** and sought-after religious position in ancient Greece?

**\*prophesies:** gives information that no one knows, through special knowledge.

**\*prestigious:** inspiring respect or admiration; having high status