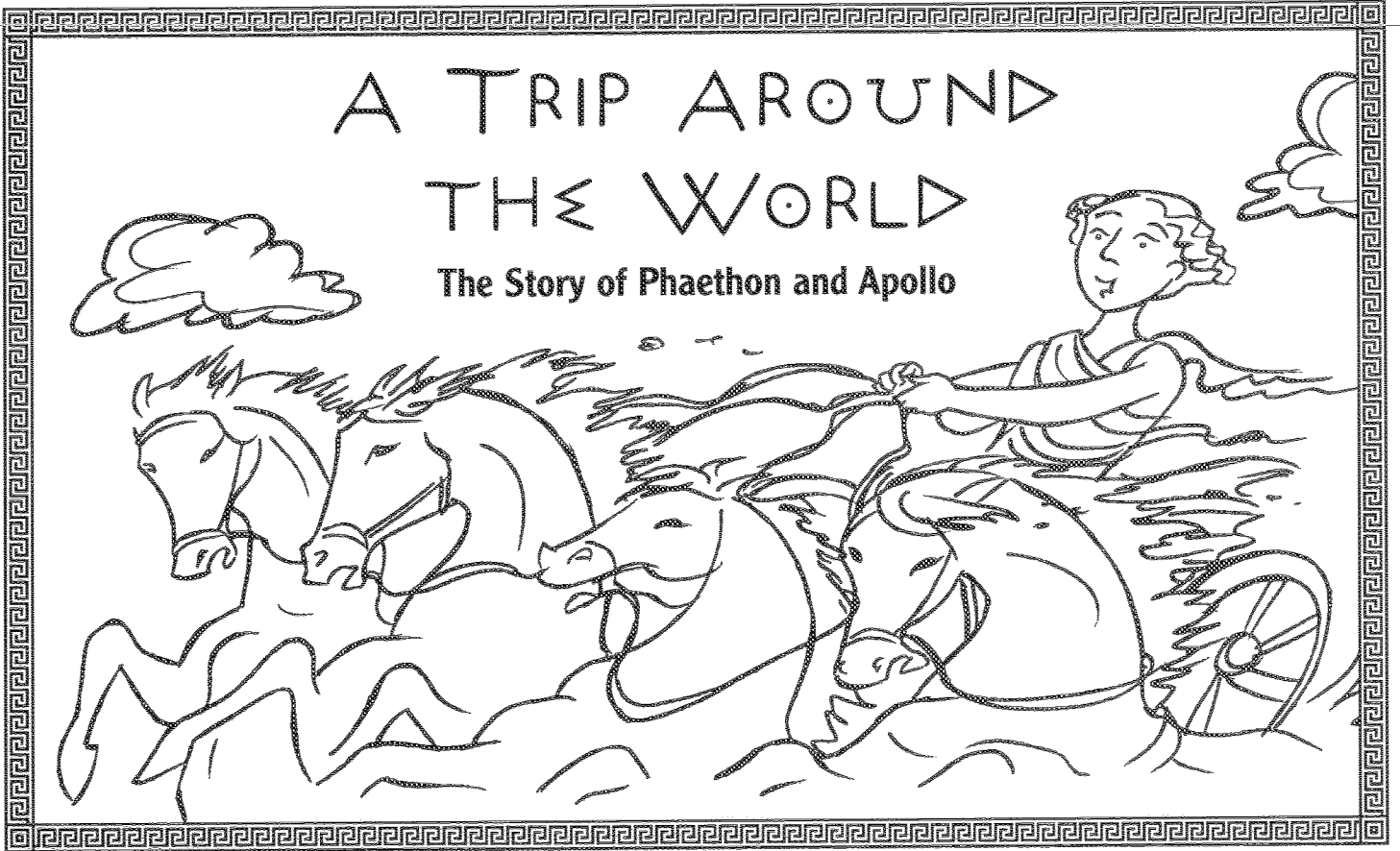


A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD

The Story of Phaethon and Apollo

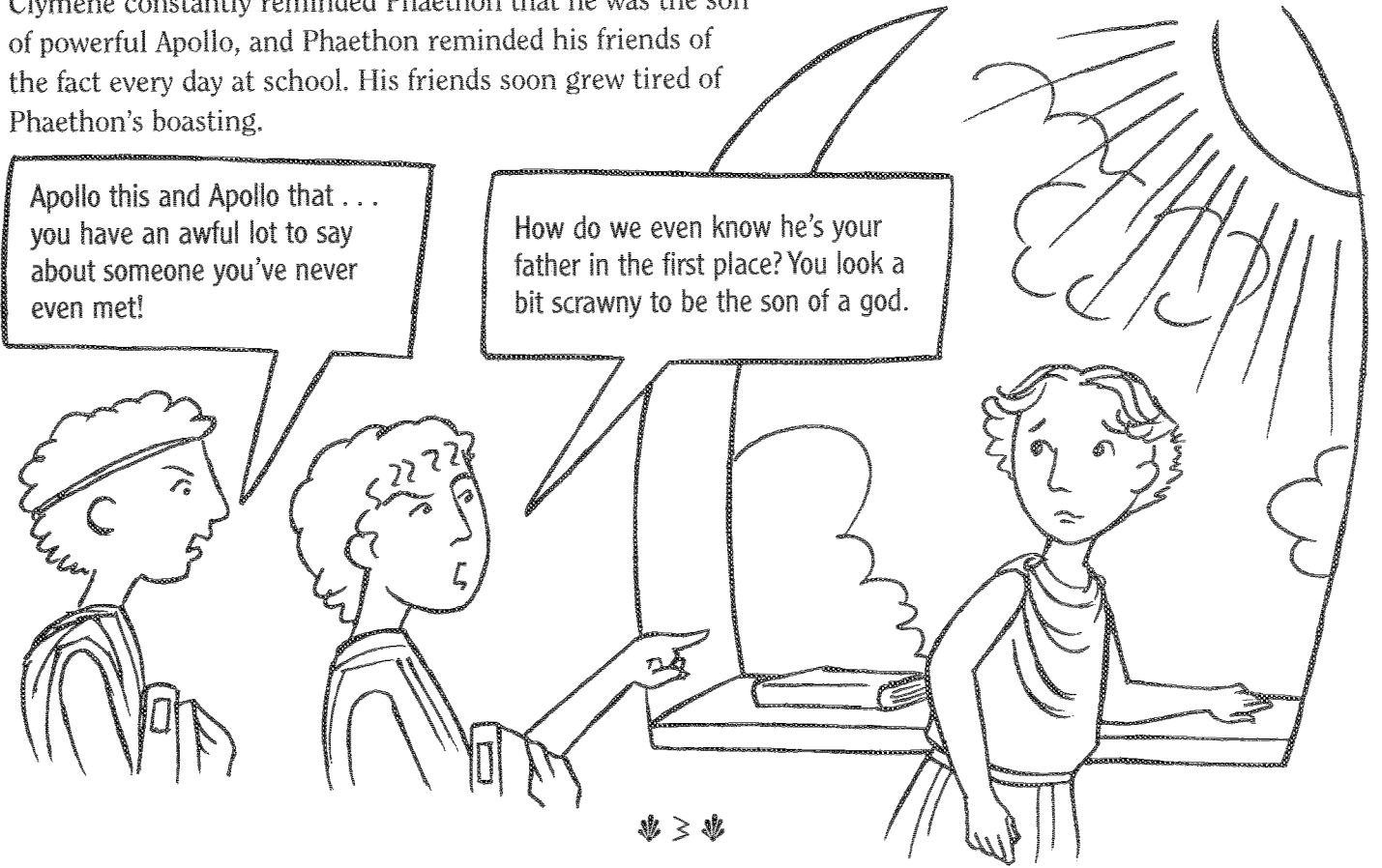


15 Greek Myth Mini-Books © Danielle Blood, Scholastic Teaching Resources

Clymene constantly reminded Phaethon that he was the son of powerful Apollo, and Phaethon reminded his friends of the fact every day at school. His friends soon grew tired of Phaethon's boasting.

Apollo this and Apollo that . . . you have an awful lot to say about someone you've never even met!

How do we even know he's your father in the first place? You look a bit scrawny to be the son of a god.

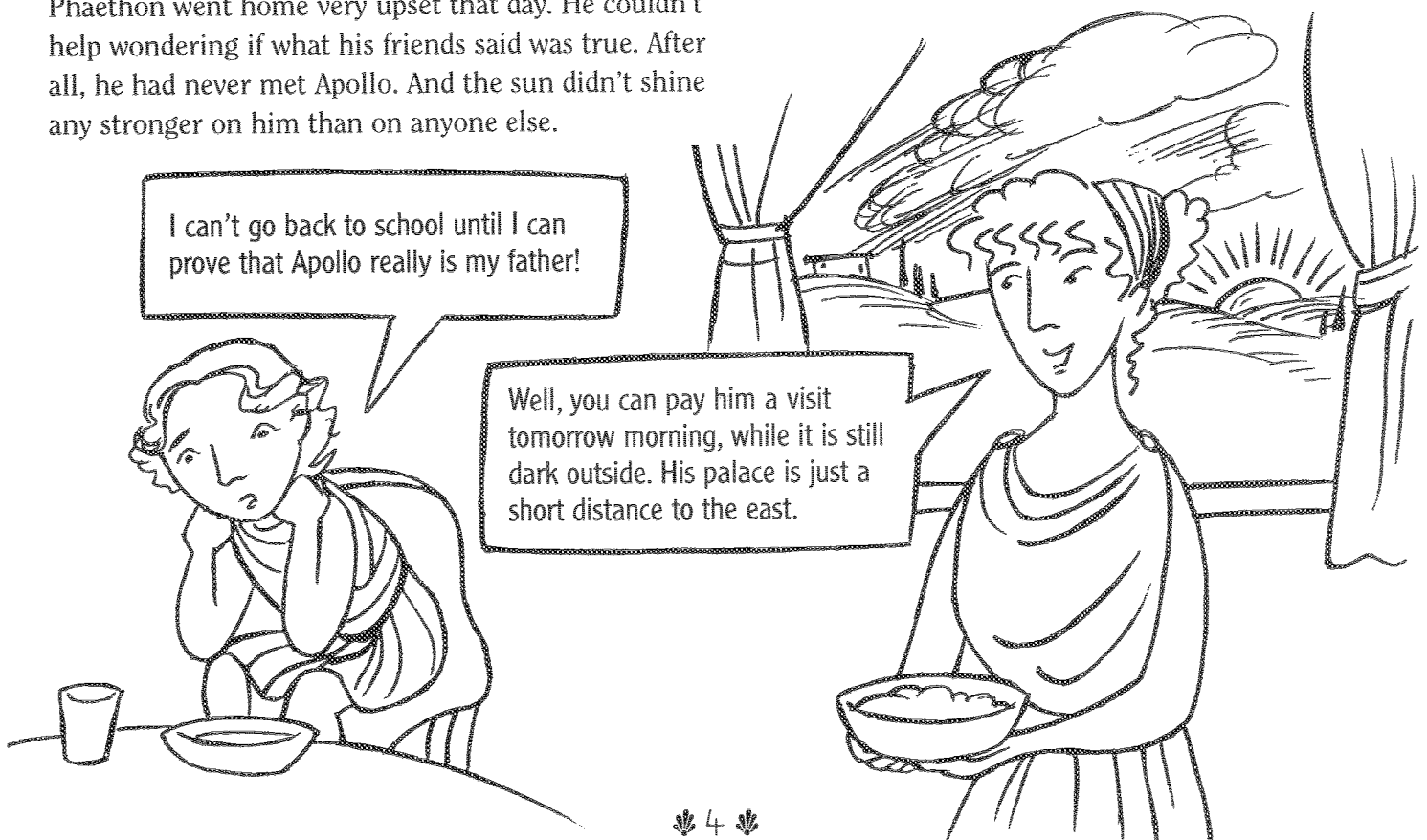


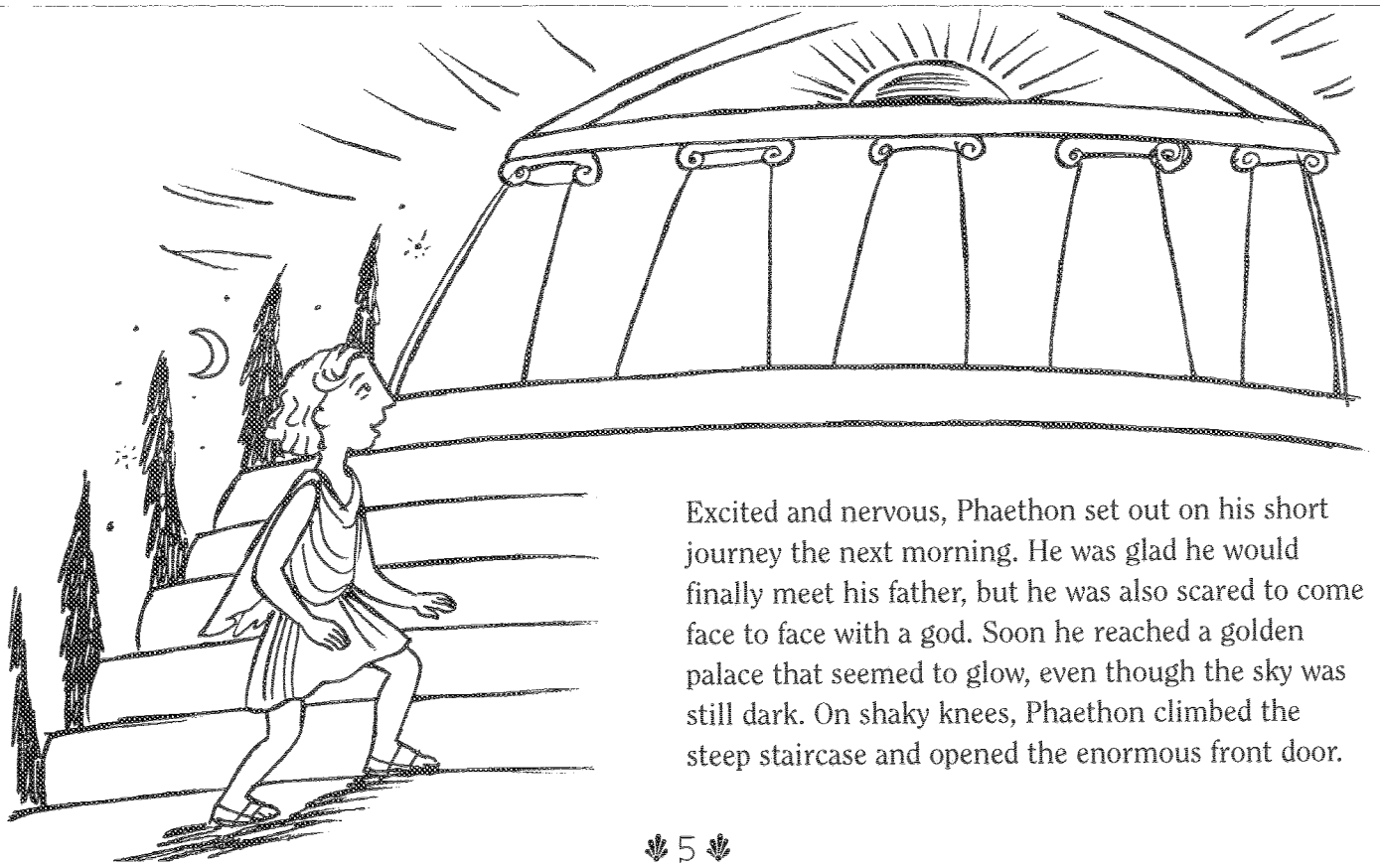
Although Clymene was a nymph in ancient Greece, she was not very different from mothers today. Clymene was extremely proud of her son Phaethon and knew that he was no ordinary young boy—especially since his father was no ordinary man. Phaethon’s father was the sun god Apollo, who drove a fiery, golden chariot across the sky to bring light and warmth to the world.



15 Greek Myth Mini-Books © Danjelle Blood, Scholastic Teaching Resources

Phaethon went home very upset that day. He couldn’t help wondering if what his friends said was true. After all, he had never met Apollo. And the sun didn’t shine any stronger on him than on anyone else.





Excited and nervous, Phaethon set out on his short journey the next morning. He was glad he would finally meet his father, but he was also scared to come face to face with a god. Soon he reached a golden palace that seemed to glow, even though the sky was still dark. On shaky knees, Phaethon climbed the steep staircase and opened the enormous front door.

✿ 5 ✿



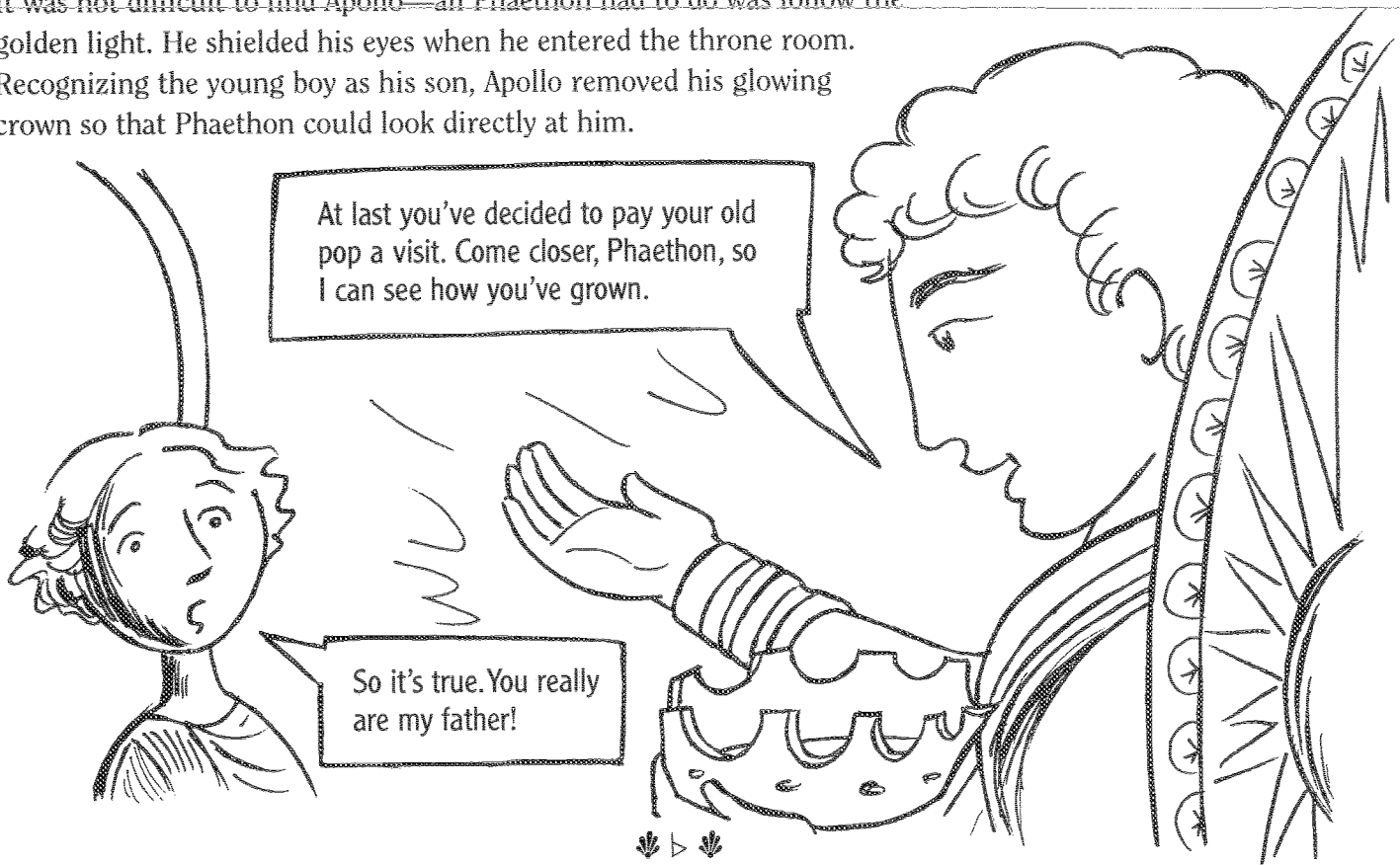
Of course I am! And just to prove it, I'll grant you one wish. Would you like your very own golden pony? How about a miniature golden chariot to show your friends at school? Just name your heart's desire, and I promise it shall be yours.

I know how I can prove to everyone that I am your son. My wish is to drive your chariot all by myself across the sky, so that the entire world will see me!

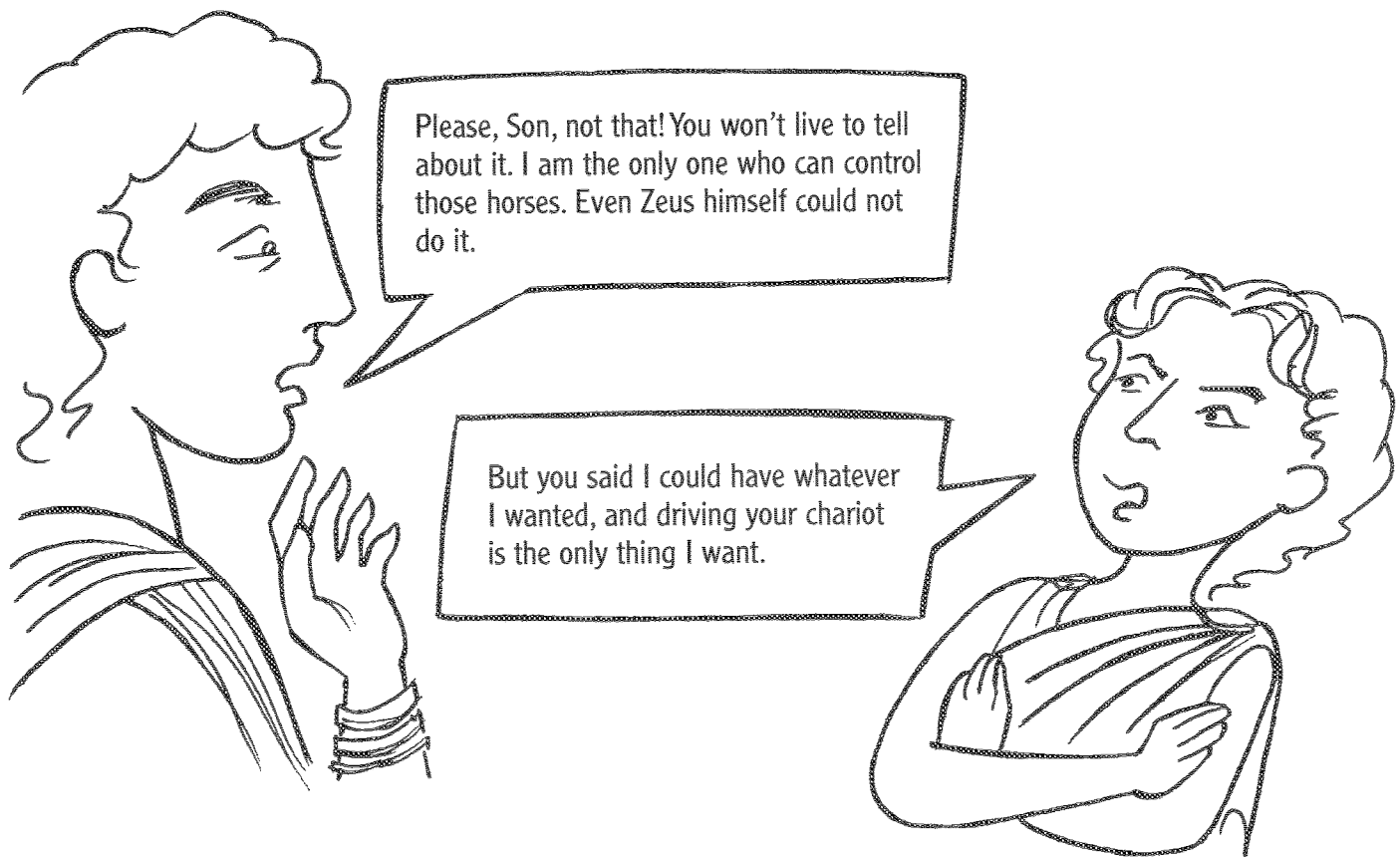


✿ 7 ✿

It was not difficult to find Apollo—all Phaethon had to do was follow the golden light. He shielded his eyes when he entered the throne room. Recognizing the young boy as his son, Apollo removed his glowing crown so that Phaethon could look directly at him.

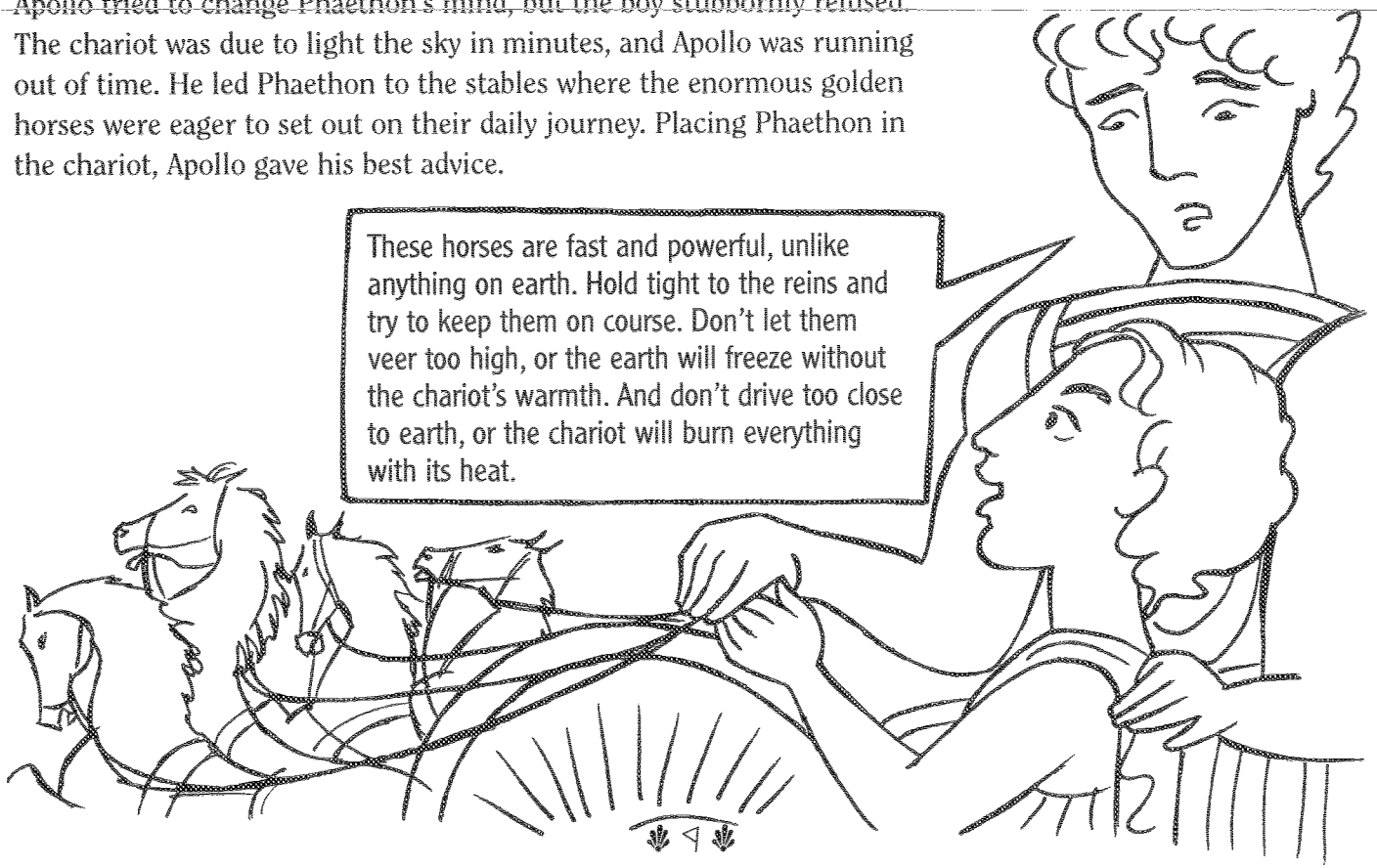


15 Greek Myth Mini Books © Danielle Blood, Scholastic Teaching Resources



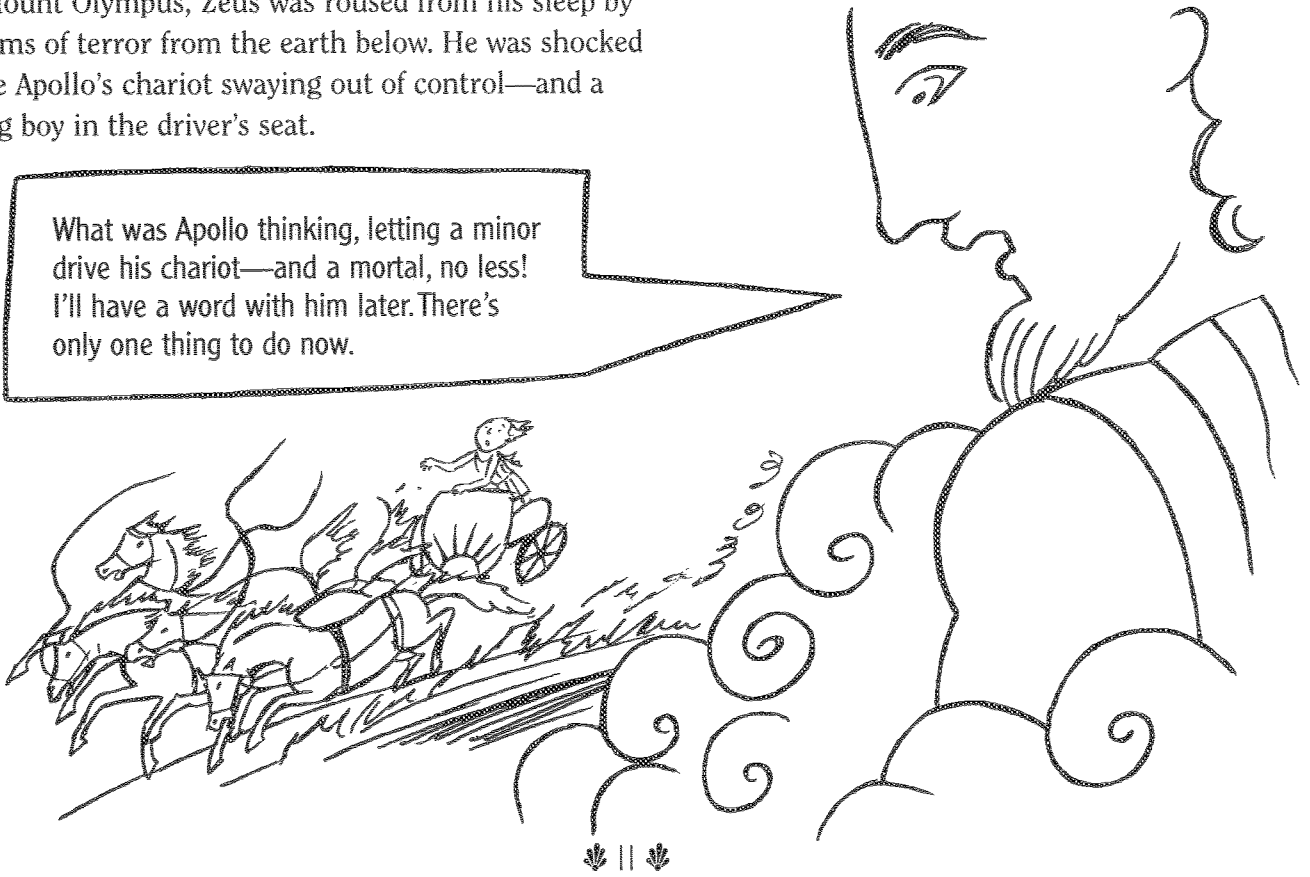
Apollo tried to change Phaethon's mind, but the boy stubbornly refused. The chariot was due to light the sky in minutes, and Apollo was running out of time. He led Phaethon to the stables where the enormous golden horses were eager to set out on their daily journey. Placing Phaethon in the chariot, Apollo gave his best advice.

These horses are fast and powerful, unlike anything on earth. Hold tight to the reins and try to keep them on course. Don't let them veer too high, or the earth will freeze without the chariot's warmth. And don't drive too close to earth, or the chariot will burn everything with its heat.

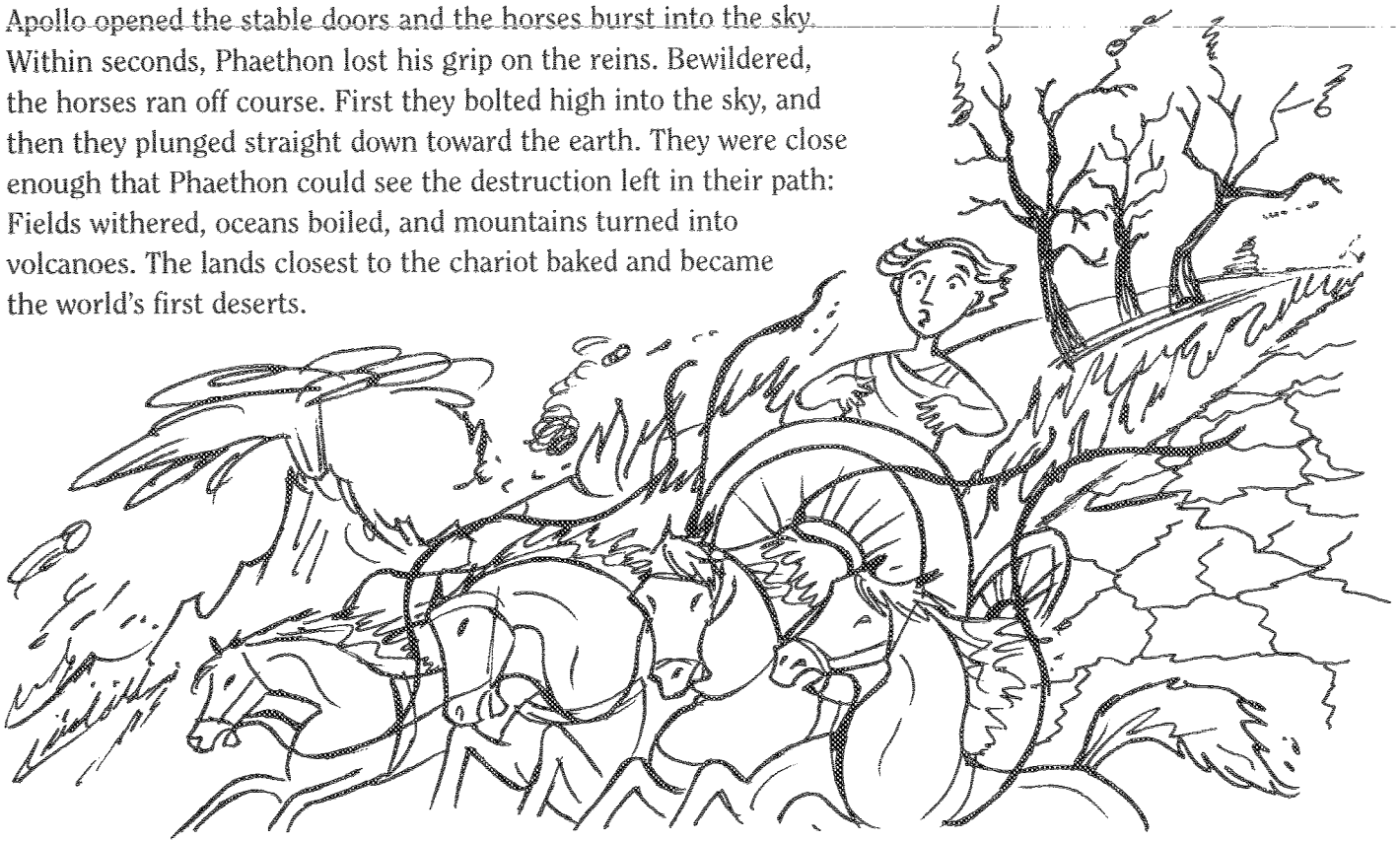


On Mount Olympus, Zeus was roused from his sleep by screams of terror from the earth below. He was shocked to see Apollo's chariot swaying out of control—and a young boy in the driver's seat.

What was Apollo thinking, letting a minor drive his chariot—and a mortal, no less! I'll have a word with him later. There's only one thing to do now.



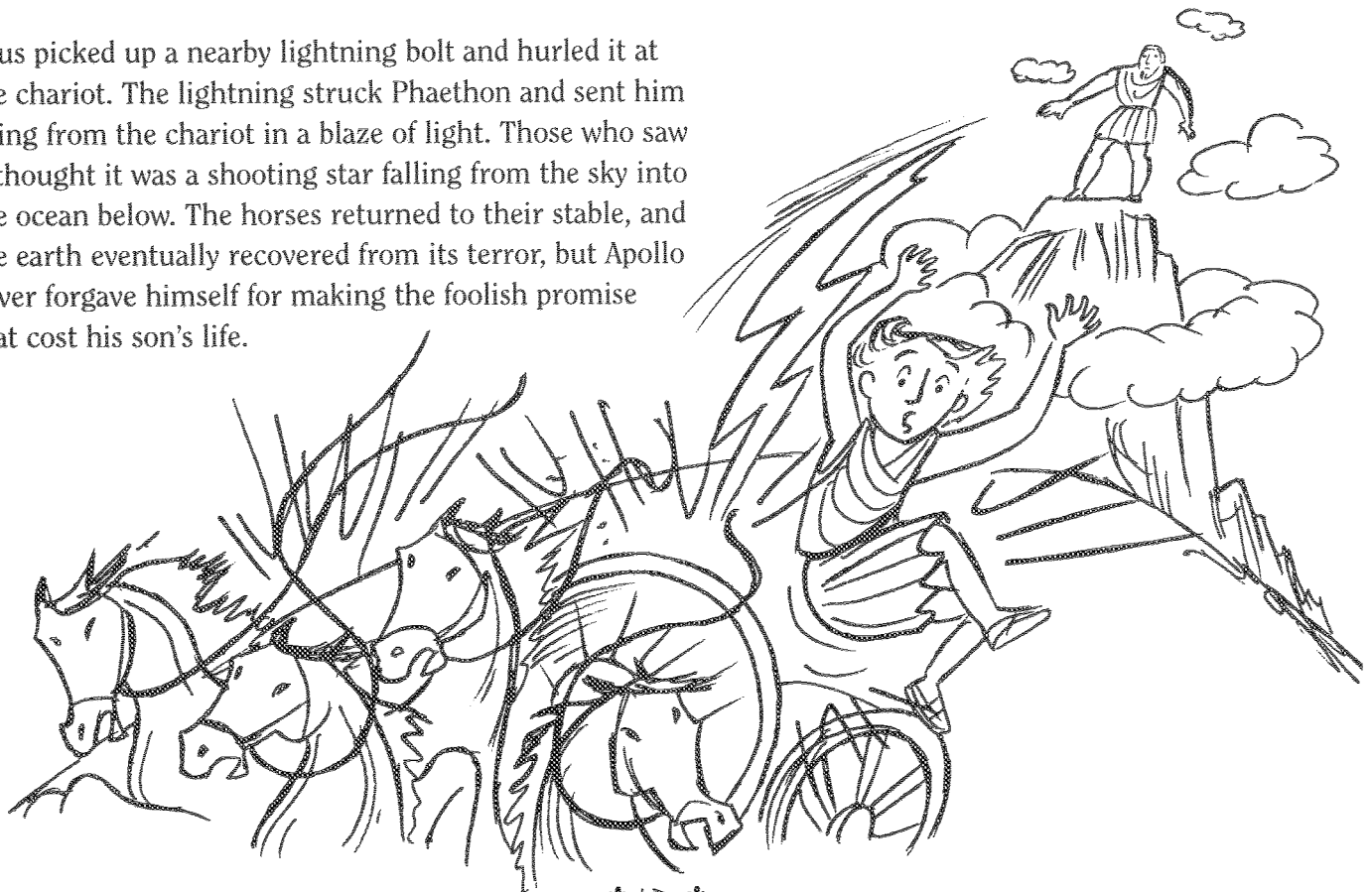
Apollo opened the stable doors and the horses burst into the sky. Within seconds, Phaethon lost his grip on the reins. Bewildered, the horses ran off course. First they bolted high into the sky, and then they plunged straight down toward the earth. They were close enough that Phaethon could see the destruction left in their path: Fields withered, oceans boiled, and mountains turned into volcanoes. The lands closest to the chariot baked and became the world's first deserts.



♣ | 10 | ♣

15 Greek Myth Mini-Books © Danielle Blood, Scholastic Teaching Resources

Zeus picked up a nearby lightning bolt and hurled it at the chariot. The lightning struck Phaethon and sent him flying from the chariot in a blaze of light. Those who saw it thought it was a shooting star falling from the sky into the ocean below. The horses returned to their stable, and the earth eventually recovered from its terror, but Apollo never forgave himself for making the foolish promise that cost his son's life.



♣ | 12 | ♣