

### [The Tragic Tale of Athena and Pallas](#)

#### DIRECTIONS:

Watch the video. In pairs, discuss the questions. Come to a consensus and answer on one paper.

Once upon a time on Olympus, Athena, the goddess and warrior daughter of Zeus, had a beloved childhood friend named Pallas. Pallas was the daughter of Triton. Triton was the son of Poseidon and a prince of the seas. From the time Athena had been born from Zeus' head, she and Pallas always trained together.

Athena and Pallas train together and were friends. Should friends compete against each other? Why or why not?

Prince Triton taught the two girls the arts of war. He taught them how to use the spear and shield, how to use the bow and arrow, and how to fight with a sword. When he felt they had learned enough, Triton arranged a friendly combat between the two girls—a mock battle, a training session meant to imitate a real war. The goal of the fight was to disarm the opponent.

Whoever managed to disarm her opponent would be the winner.

What are some sports where young people can get hurt? Do you think that young people should engage in sports that could cause them physical harm? Why or why not?

Most of the gods were present at the festival to watch the match, and King Zeus watched from the skies. When the friendly battle began, Athena and Pallas fought each other with spears. Both girls fought very well and impressed the audience, who cheered them on. At first, Athena had the upper hand and dominated the fight—until Pallas took over and began to dominate. Pallas fought with renewed vigor and focus. Just as she was about to disarm Athena, Zeus secretly interfered. Zeus feared seeing his own daughter lose. He feared the shame. As king of the gods, he believed it was only right for his daughter to emerge victorious.

Do you think parents should attend their children's sports competitions? Why or why not? Should parents have an opinion about coaches and their players?

So, Zeus subtly held up his Aegis, a powerful shield, which distracted Pallas. Pallas stood still, staring in awe at the magnificent shield, completely unaware of the rest of the fight. This gave Athena enough time to recover her strength. Still thinking her friend was focused on the fight, Athena readied her spear. Expecting Pallas to dodge, as usual, Athena threw her spear—only to watch in horror as it struck Pallas. The spear fatally pierced her chest.

Who is to blame for Pallas's death? Explain.

With a loud cry, Athena rushed to help her friend. But it was too late. Pallas was dead. Out of grief and regret, Athena built a statue in Pallas's likeness and called it the **Palladium**. She then took the name "Pallas" as her own.

"Forgive me, Pallas, for I know not how it happened.  
 Thou were my friend—now thou art no more.  
 But thou will not be forgotten.  
 Thy name shall become my name, in honor of thy memory."

Athena made the Palladium sacred and placed it in the city of Troy. As long as the Palladium remained in Troy, the city would never be defeated. And so it was: the city of Troy became invincible and unconquerable—until that fateful day when the hero Odysseus stole the Palladium from Troy.

What do you think is the moral of this story? Do you agree or disagree with it?

RUBRIC: Give yourself a grade.

Wrote in complete sentences?	4 Excellent	3 Good	2 Emerging	1 Incomplete
Student answers contain relevant details.	4 Excellent	3 Good	2 Emerging	1 Incomplete
Student answers are thoughtful.	4 Excellent	3 Good	2 Emerging	1 Incomplete

