

LESSON PLANNING

Episode-by-episode teaching notes follow on from this section. At the top of each is an introduction that gives information about the **tracks**, possible pause points and pace for this episode, any **illustrations** to go with it and its **total running time**. This is followed by a **summary** of what happens in the episode, divided into two, three or four ‘tracks’.

These gaps between tracks provide an opportunity to stop and ask questions, or to clarify what is happening; but an opportunity that need not be taken. In the transcripts the tracks are indicated by sub-headings.

As a general rule, it is suggested that you use the tracks to pause the action more at the beginning of *War with Troy*, when children are less familiar with the story and with listening to a disembodied voice. As their knowledge and interest grow it might be helpful to offer longer periods of listening, to develop sustained interest and concentration. But teaching and learning are complex activities and it is a matter of teachers making judgements for each class and context.

Additionally, the streaming audio and the CDs offer the chance to pause at any time, to help teachers demonstrate and discuss a particular literary technique or other learning objective, through an example from the story. It is not recommended to do this during children’s first hearing of an episode, since it interrupts the narrative flow and restricts children’s enjoyment and understanding. But using the transcripts and previous listening as a guide, it is straightforward to locate and repeat a section in a particular track for subsequent discussion and analysis.

Following on from the **illustrations**, **total running time**, **summary** and **tracks** in the episode-by-episode teaching notes are a collection of **starting points** and **follow-up** for teaching. The **starting points** offer a summary of main points or questions arising from the previous episode. They also signal things for children to listen out for in the forthcoming episode. The **follow-up** offers a range of teaching points, questions and ideas or activities.

It is important to take time over listening and discussion. This will pay dividends later on, as the story becomes more complex and your expectations grow perhaps more demanding. Accordingly the **starting points** and **follow-up** provide a variety of questions to help teachers differentiate, and to keep all children involved. Some are recall questions, usually more literal, while others are more complex and stimulate a degree of insight and understanding of literary conventions and/or relationships.

Finally, a useful way to support children’s listening in the opening episodes is to develop a large family tree of gods and goddesses and/or of mortals. Illustrations can be taken from this guide, reference books, and/or children can research their own detailed drawings. Respective families and groups (e.g. Greeks, Trojans, gods and goddesses) can be extended as more characters are introduced, and as needs arise. The results can be added to and displayed each time you listen, giving children a visual focus, reminder and discussion point.