



# WHAT SCHOOL WAS LIKE LONG AGO

by Ella Powell  
illustrated by Hector Borlasca



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

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Printed in the U.S.A.

ISBN: 978-0-547-88981-8

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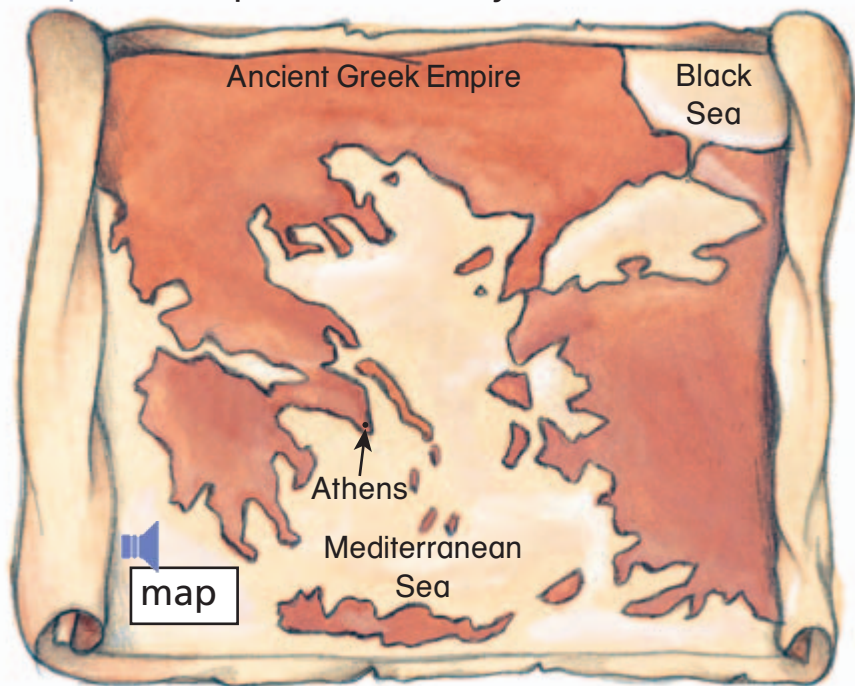


▶ This boy from long ago needs to wake up and go to school.

▶ This is a story about what school was like a very long time ago. Some things about schools long ago are the same as your school. Some things about schools long ago are different from your school.

🔊 This story is about a city called Athens. The city of Athens began a long time ago. People today think that Athens was a very important **community** of people. People today want to learn all about Athens.

🔊 This map shows the city of Athens.





writer

🔊 Athens was important because famous people lived there. Many of the important people were writers. Some of the books they wrote are still famous today. The books are part of our **culture**.

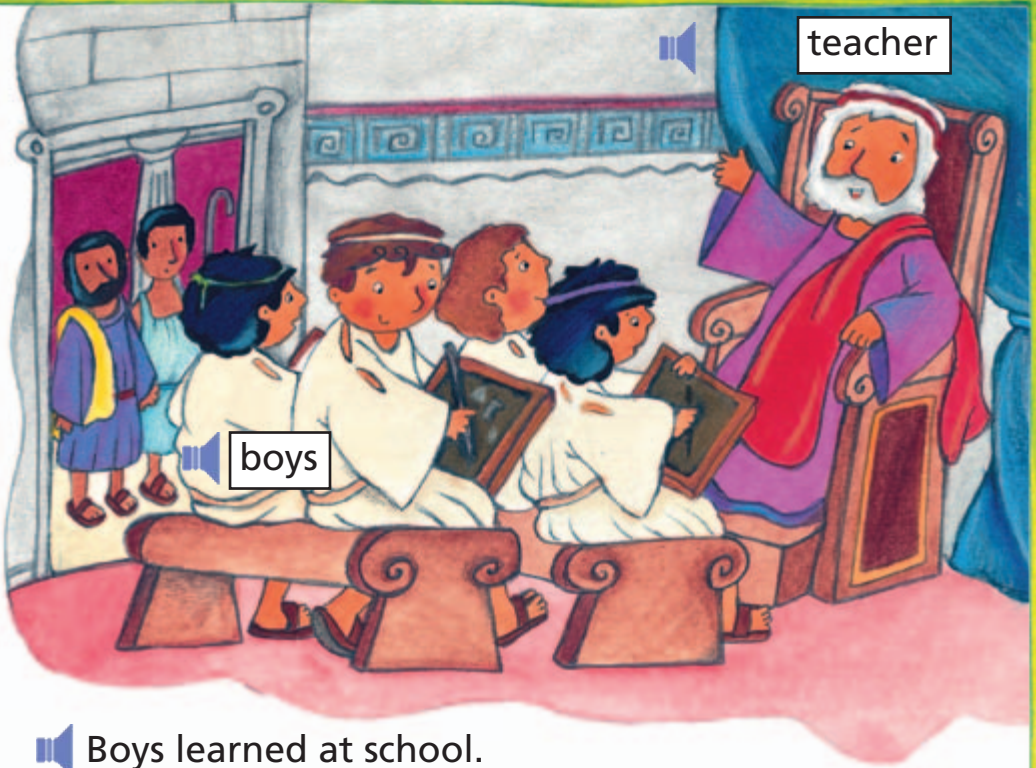
Girls did not go to school long ago. Girls learned their **lessons** at home. The teachers would come to their houses. Girls learned to read. They also learned how to take care of the house.

Girls learned at home.



teacher

girl



teacher

boys

Boys learned at school.

The boys went to a school. All the boys walked to school. They did not take a bus or other **transportation**. Today most students take a bus or car to school.

Boys today **wear** shirts and pants. Boys long ago wore long tops.



What did the boys learn in school long ago? They learned the alphabet. Some of the letters look the same as letters in the alphabet today. Some of the letters look different.

The boys also learned different languages. Then they could talk to people from other places.

Long ago the alphabet looked like this.

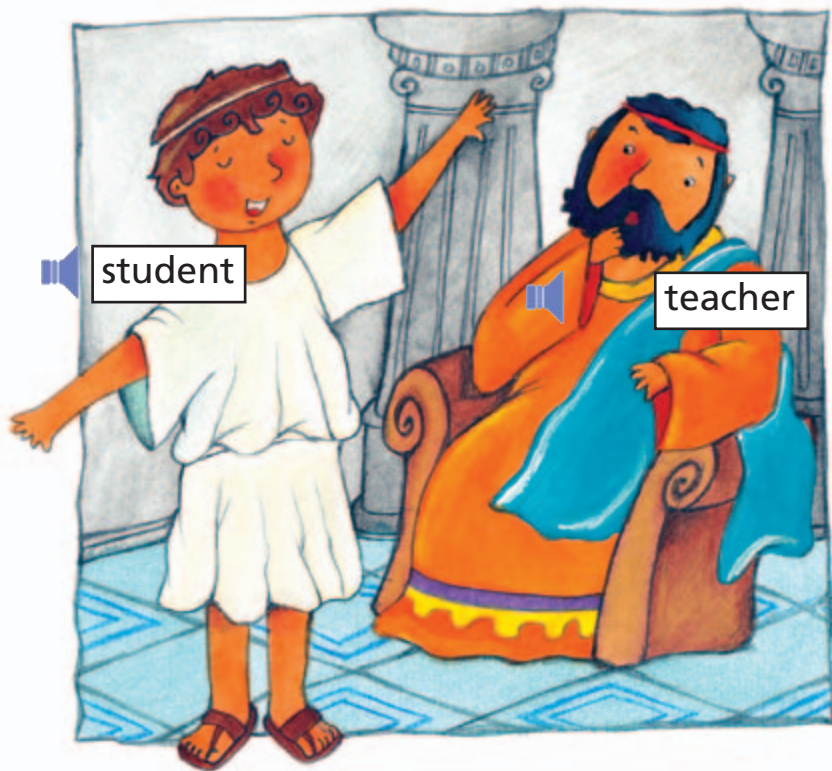


🔊 The boys in school long ago wrote on blocks. The blocks were made of wax. The boys used a sharp tool to write on the soft wax.



🔊 tool

wax block



student

teacher

▶ The boys long ago learned poems in school.  
The poems were about important people.

First the teacher would say the poem. Then the boys would say the poem just like the teacher said it. This is how they learned poems because the poems were not written in books.

What other **subjects** did the boys learn in school? One important subject was music. The boys learned to play the flute. They blew into it. They learned how to play the harp. The harp had many strings.

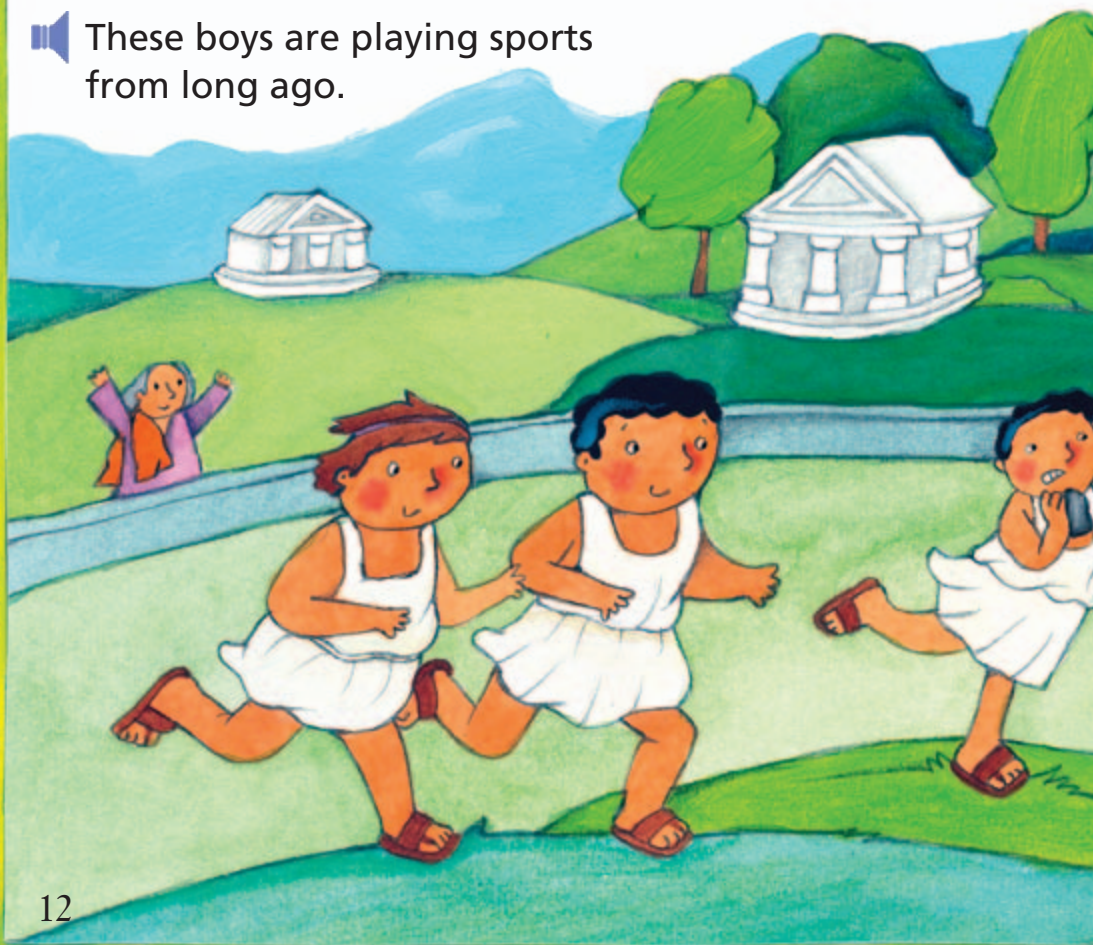
They also sang many songs together.



🔊 The boys walked outside the city to play sports. They played sports every day.

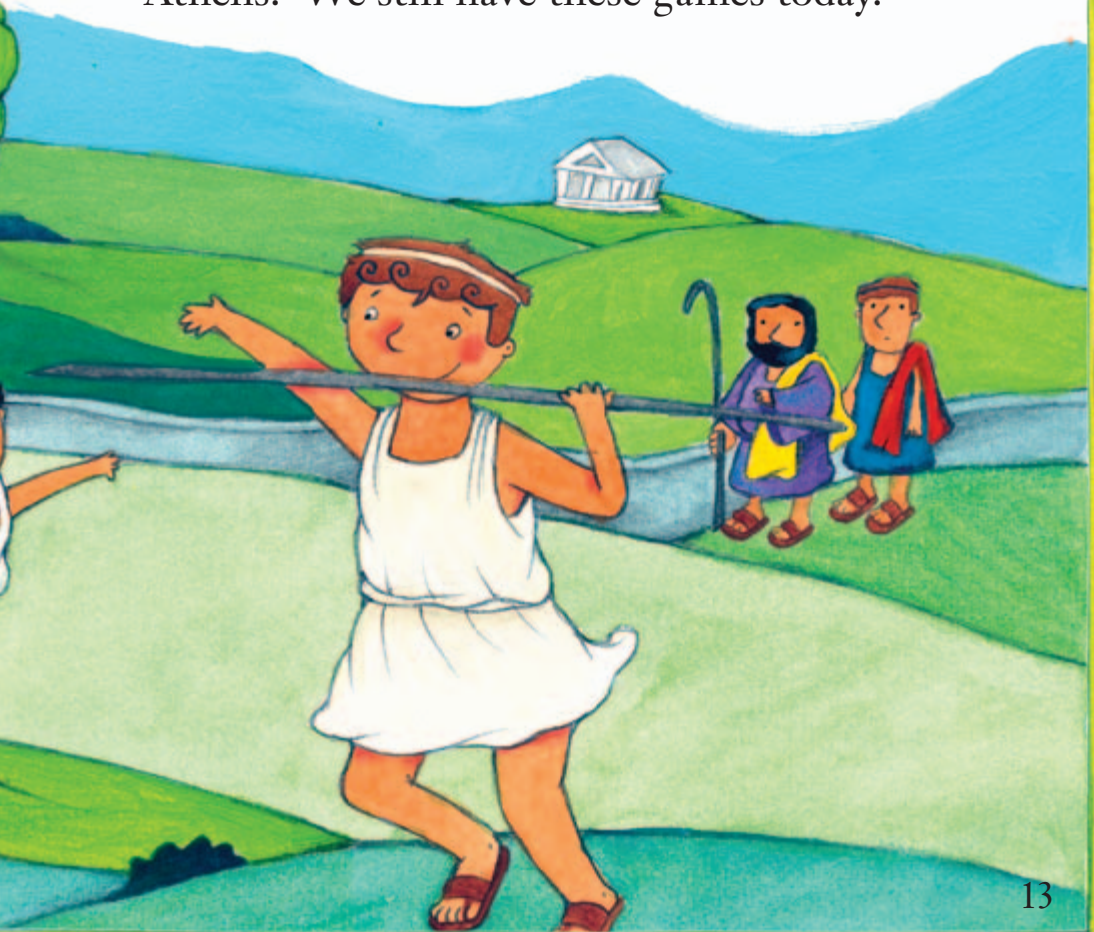
It was fun to play sports. But it was important, too. Sports made the boys feel strong.

🔊 These boys are playing sports from long ago.



🔊 The boys played different sports. They ran. They jumped. They threw things.

The boys who were good at sports had a special job. They played sports in the most important place of all. They played in the Olympics! The Olympic Games began in Athens. We still have these games today.



What do you do at the end of the school day? You have fun. Then you do your homework.

That's what students did long ago, too. They walked home and had fun. They did their homework.

School long ago was different. The schools looked different from your school. The boys did not use paper or pencils. But some of the subjects were the same subjects you learn.

So some things at school were different long ago. And some things were the same!

This boy is walking home from his school.

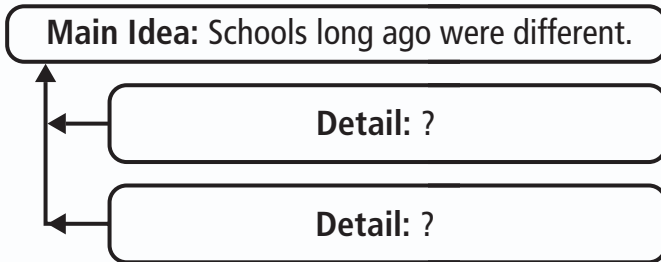


# Responding



## TARGET SKILL Main Idea and Details

A main idea of this book is that some things were different in schools long ago. Copy the chart, and add details from the story.



## Write About It

**Text to Text** Have you read another book about children who lived long ago? Write a paragraph to persuade a friend that the book would be interesting to read.





### TARGET VOCABULARY

community  
culture  
languages  
lessons

special  
subjects  
transportation  
wear



### TARGET SKILL

### Main Idea and Details

Tell important ideas and details about a topic.



### TARGET STRATEGY

### Analyze/Evaluate

Tell how you feel about the text, and why.



### GENRE

**Informational Text** gives facts about a topic.

**Level:** K

**DRA:** 20

**Genre:**

Informational Text

**Strategy:**

Analyze/Evaluate

**Skill:**

Main Idea and Details

**Word Count:** 499

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ISBN: 978-0-547-88981-8

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