

Xena

Vocabulary Words

1. legendary (adjective) of or relating to an old story or set of stories from ancient times, or the stories that people tell about a famous event or person
Example: She is the legendary princess who defeated the enemy in the story.
2. ruthless - not thinking or worrying about any pain caused to others; cruel
Example: Some people believe that to succeed in this world you have to be ruthless.
3. redemption (noun) the state of being kept from evil or of improving morally
Example: The political leadership in that state is so corrupt that it's beyond redemption (= it will always be morally bad).
4. imply (verb) to communicate an idea or feeling without saying it directly
Example: I'm not implying anything about your cooking, but could we eat out tonight?
5. raid (verb) to attack a place suddenly
Example: The soldiers raided the enemy camp and captured over 100 camels.
6. ostracize (verb) to avoid someone intentionally, or to prevent someone from taking part in the activities of a group
Example: His colleagues ostracized him after he criticized the company in public.
7. centaur (noun) a creature in ancient Greek stories that has a human's upper body and the lower body and legs of a horse
Example: He had not one, but two painted portraits of himself as a centaur.



Xena of Amphipolis, also known as the Warrior Princess and the Destroyer of Nations, was a **legendary** figure in ancient Greece and throughout the known world. As a warrior, she was at the head of one of the most **ruthless** and destructive armies that the world had ever seen.

With her lover, Borias, she traveled to numerous countries, making her name known and feared. Most notably was Chin, Siberia, Jappa and the Norseland, Britannia, and Greece. After being saved by Hercules, she attempted to walk a path of **redemption**.

With Gabrielle her best friend in the beginning and then later her **implied** lover and soulmate, she became renowned as one of the greatest heroes of the time, traveling to places such as India and Egypt, fighting for the greater good.

In her late teens, Xena's village was **raided** by the warlord Cortese. She organized a small band of men consisting of simple villagers and her two brothers, Toris and Lyceus, against their mother's wishes. Lyceus was killed in the battle, so Xena was **ostracized** and forbidden to return. This began her journey to becoming a violent and cruel warlord.

She traveled the world with her lover, Borias. Xena gave birth to her and Borias' son, Solan, in the middle of one of the greatest battles of the age: the Battle of Corinth, between Borias, herself, and the **centaurs**. Xena claimed that giving birth to Solan was one of her turning points, along with meeting Hercules and Gabrielle.

Discussion

1. Is it good for women to learn how to fight? Why or why not?
2. Should women be given equal power as men?
3. Are there well-known women fighters in your country's history?
4. Who are the most famous women in your country as of today? What are they known for?
5. Who are the best female leaders that you know of?