

The Olympic Games,
A major festival
to honour the king of the
Gods, Zeus.

Every four years
the best athletes
in the Greek World
come to Olympia to compete
for a chance at
greatness.

Eternal
fame and Glory
witnessed by
Gods and men.



Some men go on to
be the best for
decades and are
remembered for
their unbeatable
skill in boxing.



Some show form and
excellence worthy of
high military honours,
and become
Generals of great
armies.



Winning the olive
wreath and displaying
it in the Temple
of Zeus lifts a mortal
man into
everlasting memory.

And this...



...is my first year
competing!



So, are you excited for your first race at Olympia?

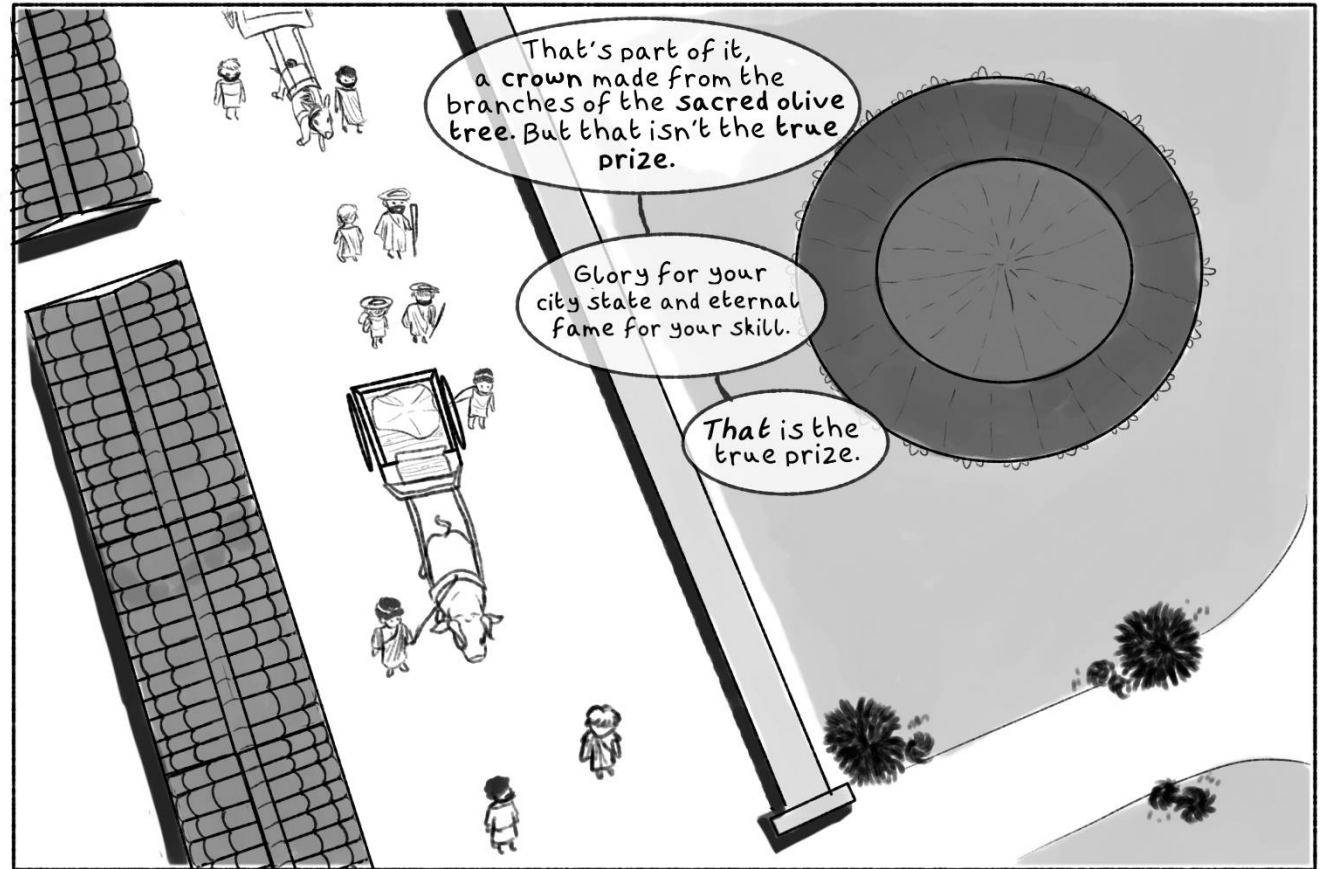
Oh! Yes, but I've never raced outside of Athens before.



Well, I had better explain a few things to you, then!

I know you're used to racing for prizes of oil and wine, but the prize is much greater in Olympia.

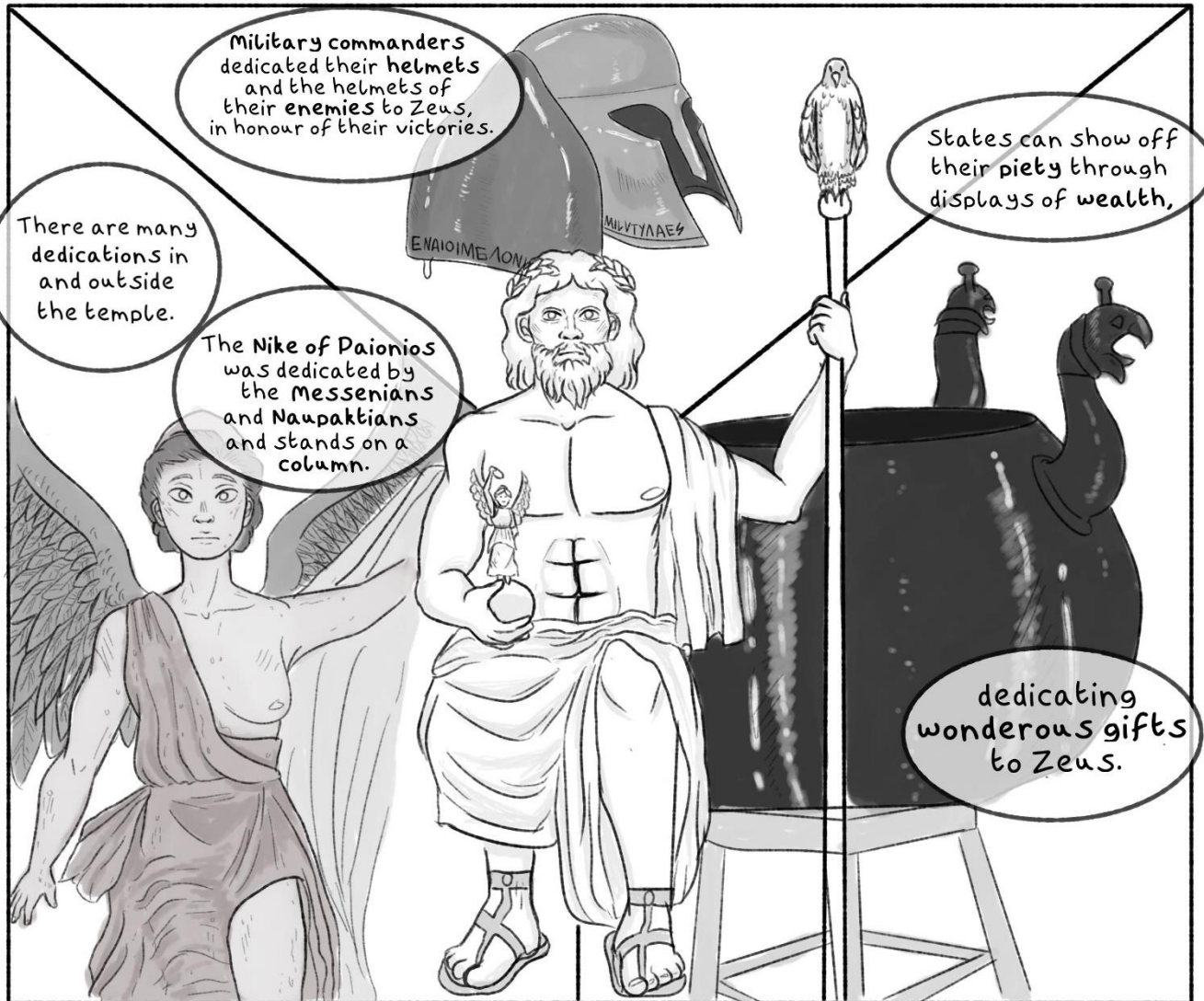
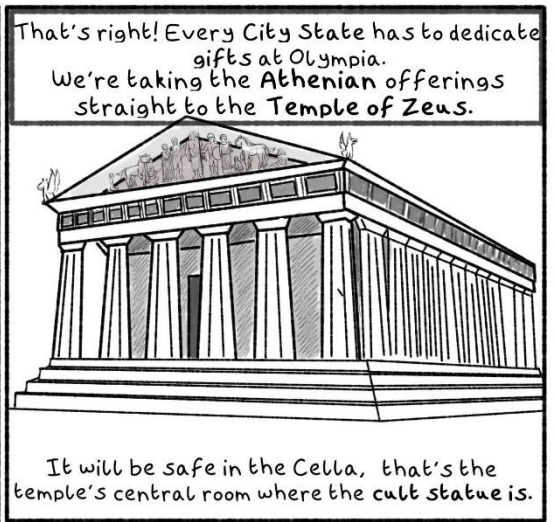
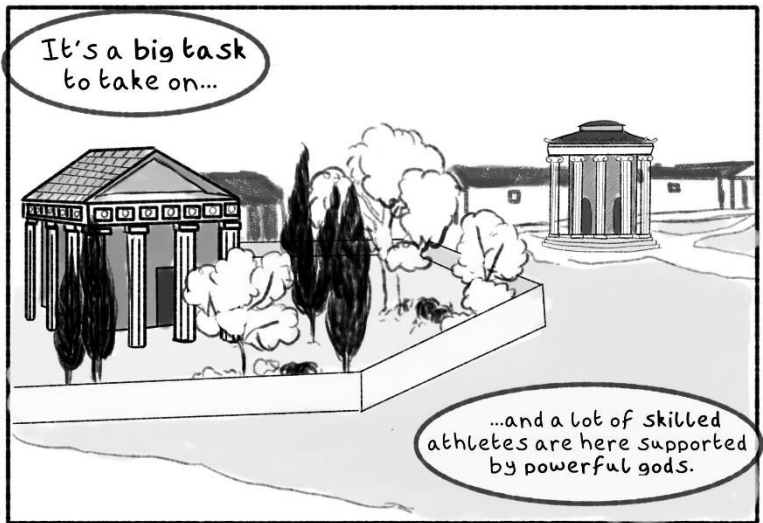
I thought the only prize at Olympia was an olive wreath?



That's part of it, a crown made from the branches of the sacred olive tree. But that isn't the true prize.

Glory for your city state and eternal fame for your skill.

That is the true prize.





Oh! It's the story of the hero Pelops!



That's right! Perfect for inspiring young athletes like you who come to the Games.



Not only that, he won Oinomaos' Kingdom!

Pelops became king of the whole kingdom.

His mighty deeds won him everlasting glory in our memories.



The hero Pelops won a chariot race against King Oinomaos, and the hand of his daughter, Hippodameia.



How did he win the race?

Some say it was because he raced with winged horses gifted to him by his lover, the sea god Poseidon.



Woah, he's so cool!

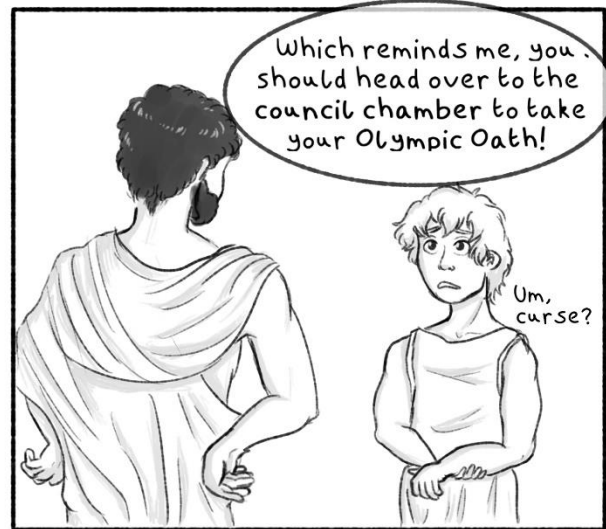
I'll make an offering to him in his shrine for luck in my race!



Hold on young man, there is a cautionary side of Pelops' story. Another version suggests that Pelops bribed Oinomaos' charioteer to swap the lynch pins of his chariot from metal to wax...



...so that Oinomaos' chariot fell apart! That may have won Pelops the race, but also a curse on his family line!



Which reminds me, you should head over to the council chamber to take your Olympic Oath!

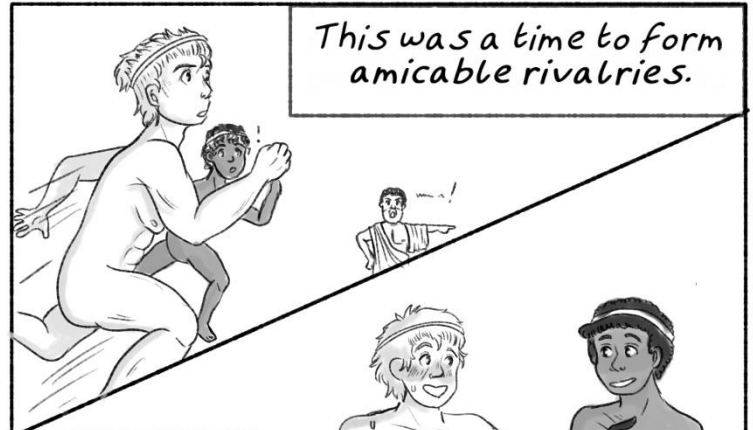
Um, curse?



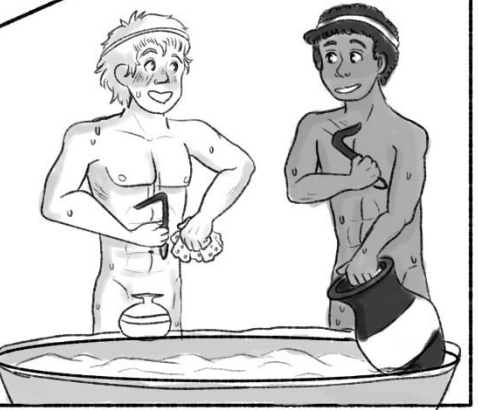
We swear to perform our best and not to cheat!



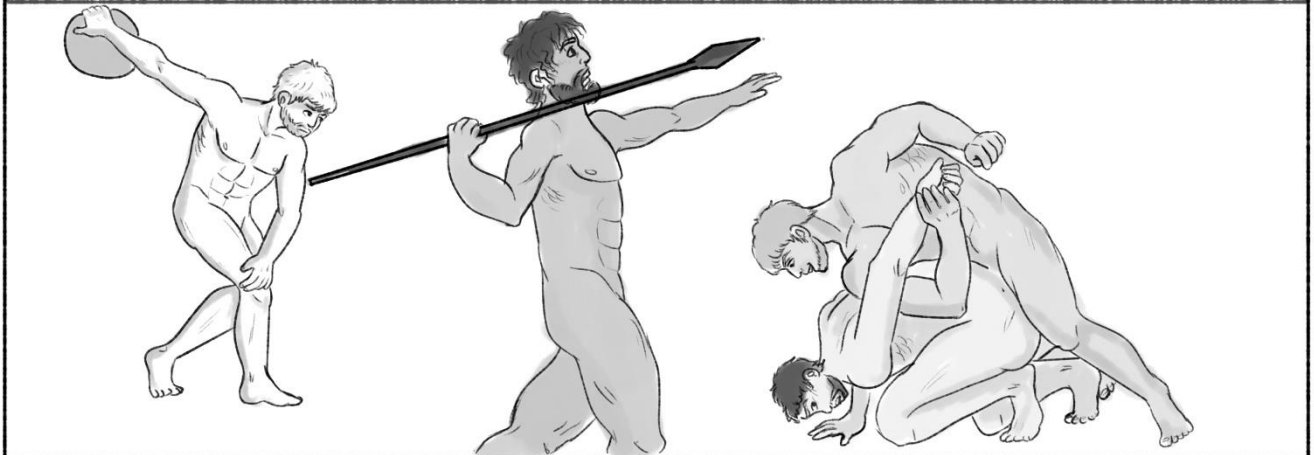
In the gymnasium, athletes trained before the 5 day programme of the Olympic games.

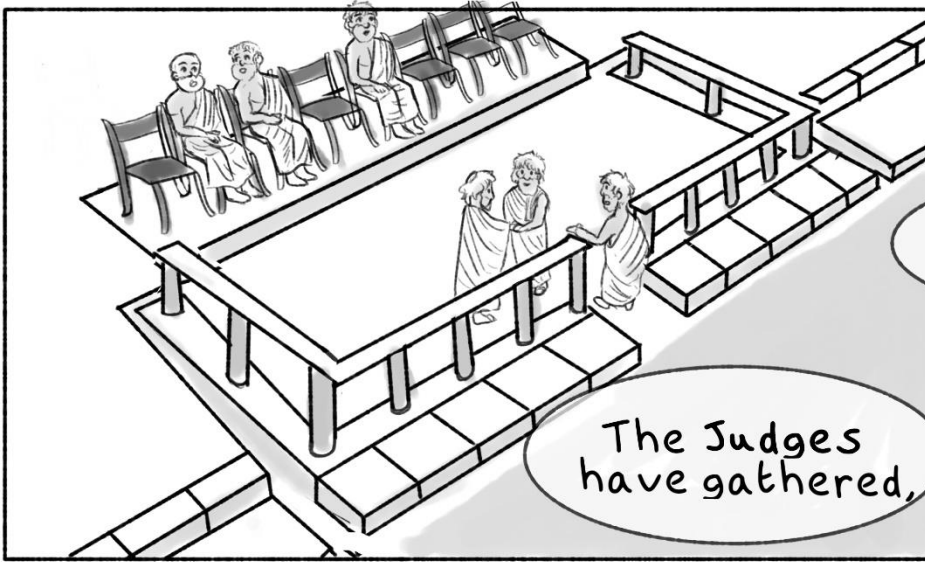


Even in times of war, the games would go ahead. Each city state would observe a peace truce for the duration of the games to encourage fair play.



After the last month of training, the athletes are ready to compete!



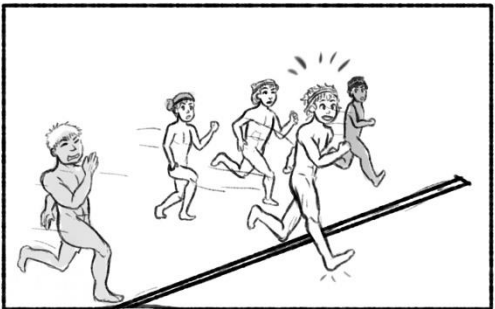


The Judges have gathered,

The audience is ready,



Racers! Ready... set... GO!



As all the victors before you, I present you with the olive wreath here in the Temple of Hera.



The winner of the boys race, the Athenian!

Yes! Yes! I did it!

Now, it's time for feasting and celebration!



Newcastle University

Comic and artwork by Jessica Scott, find more on instagram at citruzzz_ig

