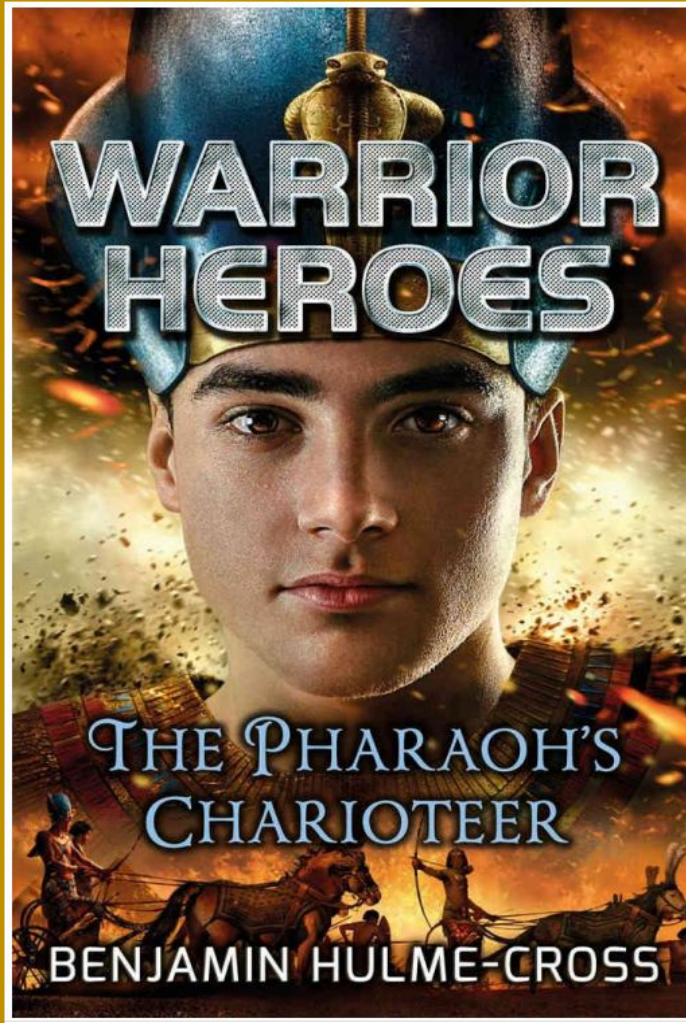
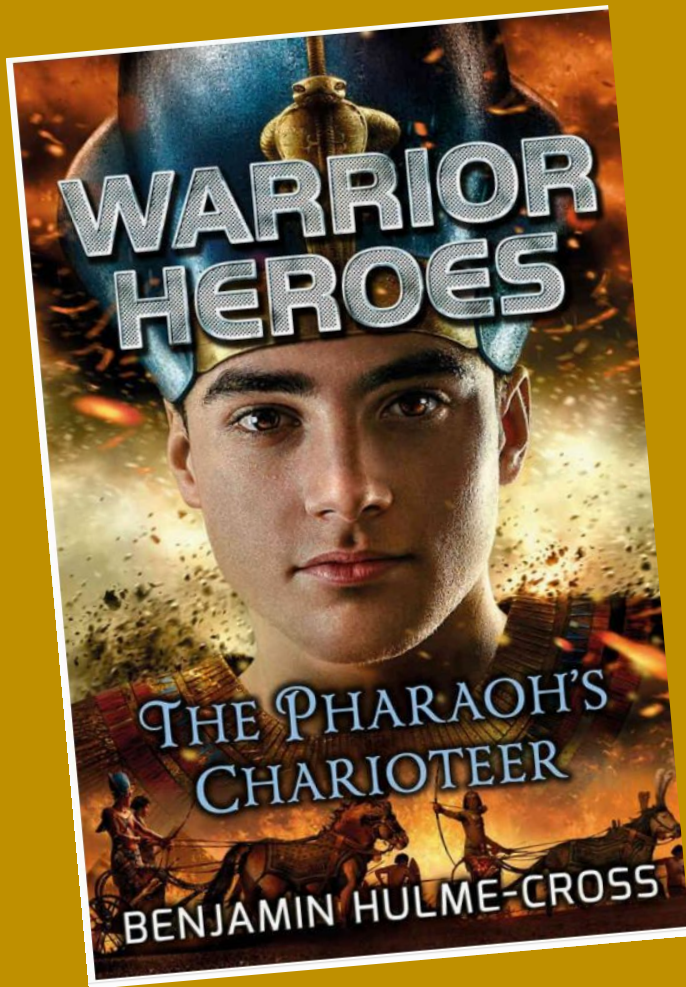


A vibrant, cartoon-style illustration of the text "WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL" in large, colorful, 3D block letters. The letters are surrounded by various school supplies like pencils and stars, set against a background of a grid pattern with faint, colorful doodles.



This half term
we will be
reading 'The
Pharaoh's
Charioteer'.



What do you think the story is about?

Where do think this story is set?

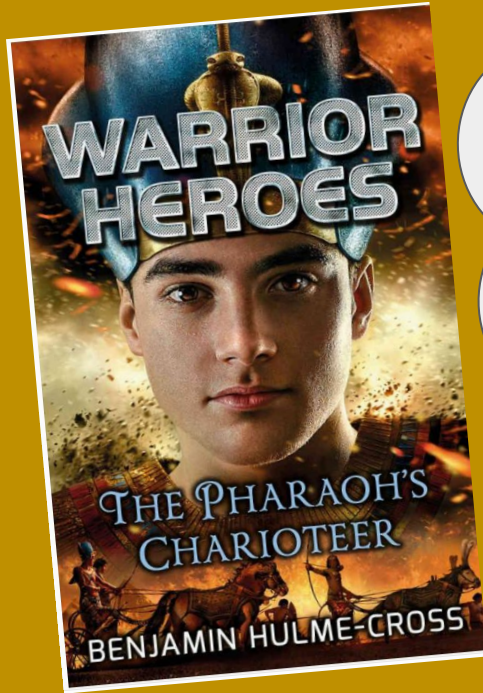
What makes you think this?

Where have you seen these books before?

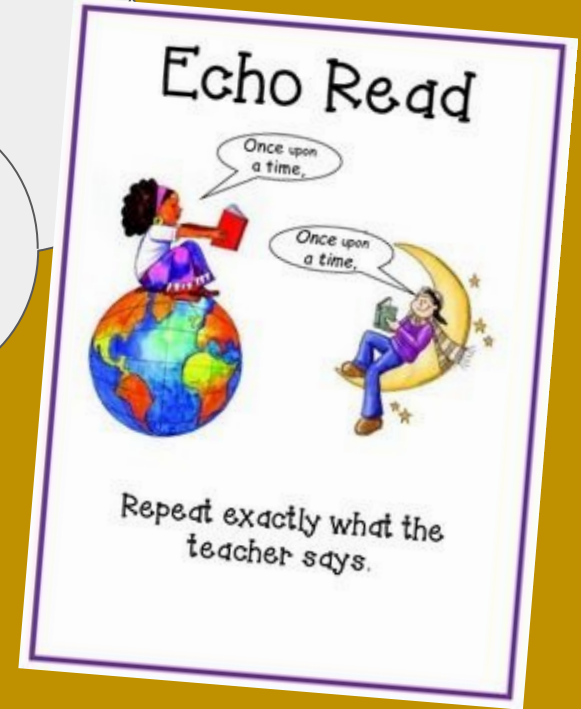


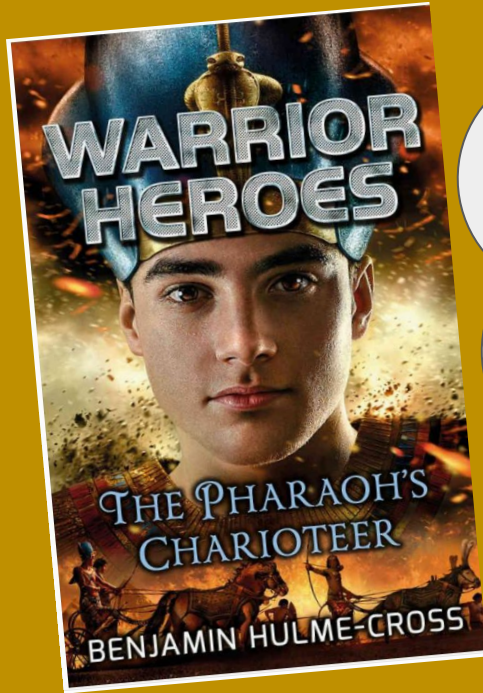
*We have a target for
reading this half
term and that is to
improve our fluency.*





*As we continue with the story,
we will be using a new
strategy called, 'echo reading'
to improve the speed and
accuracy with which you read,
regardless of how confident a
reader you already are.*





There will be lots of unfamiliar words and phrases that you hear as we read so remember you can pause the lesson and replay any part at any time.

LET'S GO!

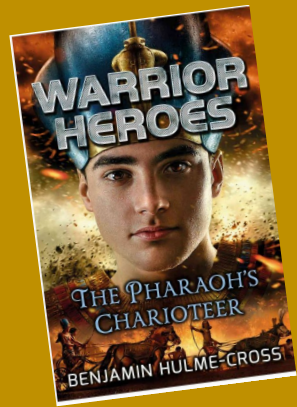
CHAPTER 1



"We're going to Egypt!" Finn yelled. He adored his great grandfather, Professor Blade, and hoped to follow in his footsteps as an archaeologist. Nowhere suggested the adventure of exploring history quite like Egypt.

*You will need to listen to me read a part of the chapter then, following with your finger, **echo what I have read** and the way that I have read it!*

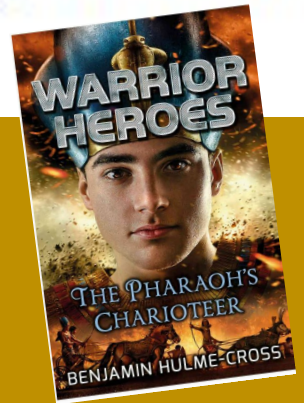




“I do believe so,” replied the Professor’s ghost, leaning back in his chair and removing his glasses to clean them with a handkerchief.

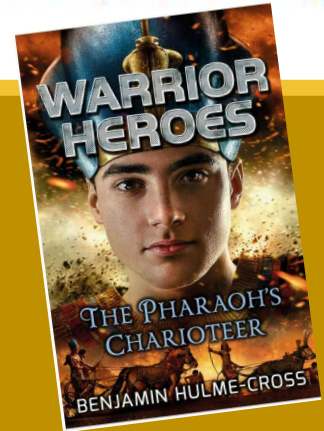
“Not really warriors though, were they?” Arthur remarked. “Isn’t Egypt all about pyramids and pharaohs and mummies?”

“Oh, they did their fair share of fighting,” the Professor assured him. “You don’t establish a civilisation that lasts for three thousand years without waging a few wars!” Finn’s ears pricked up as the Professor began telling them about Nubian fortresses in the land to the south, Hittites attacking from the north, and sea raiders sailing into the Nile Delta from the Mediterranean.

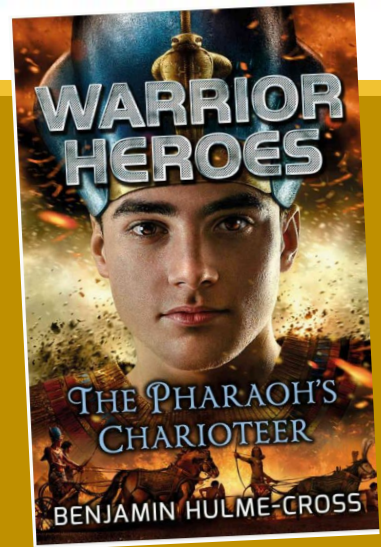


“The thing about the Egyptians was that they were lucky enough to live in an incredibly fertile land that allowed them to grow far more food than they needed.” Arthur began to glaze over at this point, although Finn still listened closely. “So they had spare time to fight wars and build temples and pyramids. We know a lot about them because they left so much behind for us to find.”

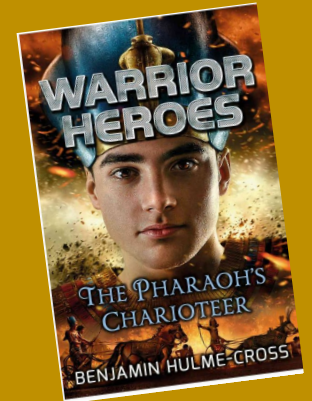
“And what about our next ghost?” Arthur wondered out loud, bored by the history lesson.



“Something of a mystery, this chap,” said the Professor, leaning towards his desk enthusiastically. “We think he may have been a nobleman or a lesser prince because of how he was buried. He was young when he died – only about sixteen or seventeen. And it was a violent death. We could see that when we examined the mummy.”



“Hang on a minute,” said Finn. “I think we’re about to find out!” Sure enough, the air in the Professor’s study seemed to grow colder, and it felt charged with something like static electricity. The boys shivered in anticipation as they heard light footsteps approaching along the corridor. No matter how often it happened, they were always awestruck when they met one of the ghost-warriors.



The lights in the study dimmed and then disappeared altogether as the electricity cut out. The Professor and the boys made their way carefully over to the fireplace, where they could see a little in the flickering firelight. Across the room, the door creaked slowly open, and in walked a young Egyptian man, instantly recognisable by his striped headdress, chunky gold necklace and white kilt. He looked around the room curiously, and seeing the group huddled by the fire, he walked towards them. As the young man drew nearer, the boys were both struck by his eyes, thickly defined by black eyeliner and decorated with green paint so that it looked almost as if each eye were at the centre of a green leaf.



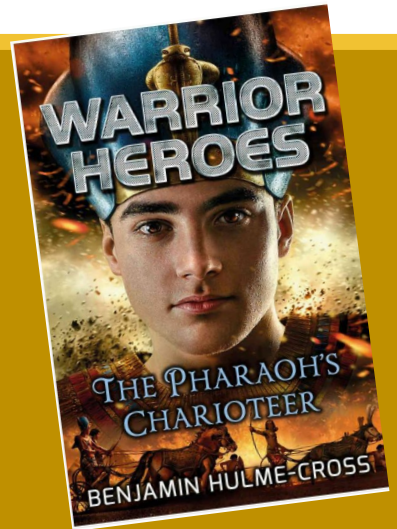


"I am Thamose," the Egyptian said in a weak voice.

*You will need to listen to me read a part of the chapter then, following with your finger, **echo** what I have read and the way that I have read it!*

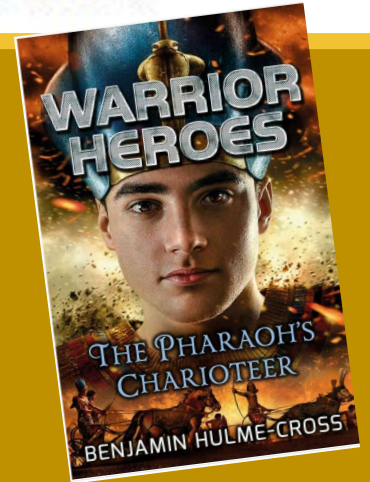


“And what service might we be able to provide you with, sir?” the Professor asked gently. “How is it that your soul still walks the earth, unable to rest?”



“The first part of my father’s reign was marked by peace and prosperity,” Thamose began slowly. “Then something happened that changed everything. War broke out between my father’s army and the Nubians.”

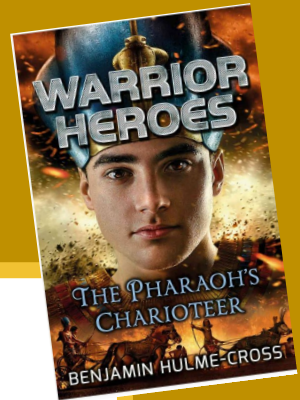
“So you were... are the pharaoh’s son?” Finn asked, eyes wide.



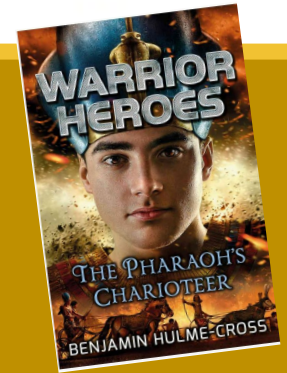
"So you were... are the pharaoh's son?" Finn asked, eyes wide.

"My father was Pharaoh, yes. But my mother was Nubian. So when the two kingdoms were at war... Well, things became very difficult for my mother, and thousands of other mothers besides."

"And you died in this war?" the Professor enquired.



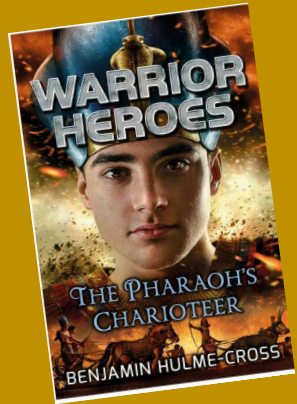
“Worse... Far worse... I was taken hostage by the Nubians before the war began. They hoped to force my father to pay them tribute. They did not think he would raise an army. You see,” he said, finally looking each of them in the eye, “it was always my desire to honour my father by fighting bravely as one of his charioteers. I never thought I would be the reason a war started. I was the reason my mother’s life ended the way it did. I was the reason thousands of Nubians and thousands of Egyptians died.”



Finn and Arthur looked at one another. This sounded like a most unusual mission.

“So you need us to...?” Finn left the question hanging.

“Go to Thebes and prevent the war from happening!” said Thamose. “Save thousands of lives!” He was standing directly in front of the boys now, and reached out a hand to grasp each by the arm. It wasn’t a sensation they would ever get used to. The room began to spin and the firelight turned into a belt of light accelerating around them, until it vanished completely.



IT'S SHOW TIME



*Now that we have read the
chapter together,
Perform to someone at
home by reading the
chapter again.
Copy everything you
heard when we read
together.*