

SCENE 2

A BOY'S BEDROOM

#2 BE THE HERO

(WILL trades places with YOUNG WILL, who sits on his bed. WILL exits. EDWARD enters with a traveling case.)

EDWARD

Evening, son.

YOUNG WILL

Where were you? You missed my game.

EDWARD

How do you know I wasn't hiding in the stands? Maybe I didn't want to spook you, keep you from hittin' that home run.

YOUNG WILL

We were playing soccer.

EDWARD

That's barely a sport. Now, what story's it gonna be tonight?

YOUNG WILL

I already marked it. Here.

(He hands EDWARD a book--it's "The Iliad")

EDWARD

You don't want this. These are prefabricated. Predigested. Let me tell you a real story -

YOUNG WILL

(wary)

You mean another story about you.

EDWARD

A story about life!

YOUNG WILL

Dad -- can you even read?

EDWARD

I can read just fine! Look...

EDWARD (CON'T)

(Clearing throat; making a real effort)

Chapter nine: "Thus kept the Trojans watch, but the ay-KEE-uns
were holden of wondrous Panic..."

(checking book cover)

The hell is this book?

YOUNG WILL

It's about the Trojan War.

EDWARD

Okay. Ancient Rome and all that.

YOUNG WILL

They're actually Greek.

EDWARD

That's my point! We live in Alabama, Will. We got stories under
every leaf and every stone.