

Gift horse

'Never look a gift horse in the mouth,' is an expression my mother used as I was growing up. I didn't understand it and filed it somewhere deep within my mind palace under *how long is a piece of string* and other frustrating sayings from back in the day.

I guess it is a saying that evolved into another way of saying 'be thankful for what you have.' As a child I thought it had a much more adventurous meaning. I thought of a great big wooden horse, Greek soldiers fighting a war over the most beautiful woman in the world with the power to impress upon the fleets of Greece to sail a thousand ships.

I thought of men waiting in the belly of the beast, ready to slip out under the cover of darkness and take the city of Troy by force. I thought of how this was wonderfully exciting and how 'never look a gift horse in the mouth' was actually really, really bad advice as there might be a swarm of murderous Grecian mercenaries waiting just inside.

I later researched the phrase and found out it was related to examining a horse's teeth as this helps determine their age, health and general condition. Even so, I have decided that there should be a new saying in light of my misunderstanding and we should all spread the word.

'Always look a giant wooden gift horse in the belly if presented by suspicious ancient Greeks with cool names like Agamemnon and Achilles.'

File under awesome sayings to convince my son are true.