



Check out ItsLearning if you can - you could share your book reviews on there!

Adventure Awaits... Reading, Writing, Spelling

You could turn your writing into either a virtual book or news report. If you've got it, think what technology you could use to bring it to life!



Reading

Daily reading and listening to audio books online - write a review about what you've read!

Reading Comprehension

Read the myth of Theseus and the Minotaur and answer the questions: there are 3 levels to choose from - look at the



Writing Skills: Choosing effective vocabulary

It is important for authors to choose vocabulary that helps draw a picture in the reader's mind. Below is a picture of an Arctic explorer. It is surrounded by words that could be used to describe him. Order the words thinking about which you think are the most and least effective. Next, write sentences to describe the explorer using the most effective words.

brave

resourceful

tough

strong

burly

skilful

robust



resolute

fit

healthy

intrepid

imaginative

prepared

fearless

daring

capable

hardy

great

good

valiant

If you are unsure of meaning - check in a dictionary.

Spelling

Learn them and have your own test on Friday!

1. antisocial
2. official
3. superficial
4. special
5. artificial
6. social
7. racial
8. crucial
9. facial
10. beneficial

Writing: Extended Pieces

Narrative

Write your own story or diary entry about an unexpected adventure. You could use the picture as your inspiration or think of your own idea. Literacy Shed also has lots of great videos to inspire.

You could use this story start...

She knew that it hadn't been a good idea to leave the tap running, but now she was starting to enjoy herself...

Non-Narrative

Persuade someone to come on an adventure with you! Choose a destination - research the things you can do, risks you may have to take and rewards that will be reaped!

The Jungle



Back in Time



Space



Antartica



Under the Sea



The Story of Theseus and the Minotaur



King Minos was the king of Crete. He was angry and enjoyed attacking the city of Athens when they weren't expecting it. King Aegeus, who was the king of Athens, wanted to stop the attacks so he struck a deal with Minos. In return for peace, Aegeus would send over seven girls and seven boys to be offered to King Minos's terrifying beast – the Minotaur.

Theseus was fed up. Minos had been telling Athens what to do for nine years now and, tomorrow, 14 more children would be shipped off to meet the Minotaur. He went over the plan in his head and knocked on the door of his father's study.

Before Aegeus could even stand up to meet his son, Theseus had started talking. "This deal with Minos has gone on for too long. Families are terrified that their children will be picked next. We should be protecting our people – not feeding them to the Minotaur! Tomorrow, when the boat comes, I am going to take the place of one of the boys. Then, I will defeat the Minotaur and we can live in peace."

Aegeus was shocked. He knew that his son was strong and brave but the Minotaur was huge and fierce. In fact, it was so fierce that it had to be locked inside a complex maze. Aegeus begged Theseus to find another way but he had already made up his mind. Eventually, Aegeus had to agree.



"I will not be happy until I know that you are safe," he told Theseus. "The moment that I can see your ship, I want to know that you have won. If you have defeated the beast, replace your ship's black sails with white ones. Then, I will know that you are coming home safely." Theseus nodded and promised his father that his sails would be white.

Later that day, Theseus climbed into the ship alongside 13 shivering children. When the boat arrived in Crete, they were met by Minos and his daughter, Ariadne. As Minos led the children to the palace, Ariadne pulled Theseus to one side. She explained that she wanted to escape from her father and his unfair laws. As a result, she told Theseus that she would help him if he promised to take her away from Crete.

Theseus and the Minotaur

Agreeing to help, Theseus and Ariadne went to see Daedalus. He had invented the labyrinth that the Minotaur was being kept in. Wanting to be a hero, Daedalus agreed to help. Later that night, the three met at the entrance to the labyrinth.

Holding out a ball of string, Daedalus explained his plan. "This labyrinth has been designed to be so complicated that I can't even escape it. However, if you unravel this string behind you, you will be able to use it to find the entrance again. Ariadne and I will stay here to make sure that nobody else comes in. Good luck."

With that, the doors to the labyrinth closed and Theseus set off to find the Minotaur. Leaving the string behind him, he searched through the narrow passages until, at last, he was face to face with the beast. The Minotaur was stronger but Theseus was quicker and smarter. After a long battle, Theseus emerged victorious. The Minotaur had been defeated.

Theseus immediately made his way to the ship with Ariadne. He had done it! No more children would ever have to meet the Minotaur. Feeling tired but happy, Theseus hoisted the black sails of his ship and headed for home, forgetting all about the promise that he had made to his father.



Questions

1. Each year, how many girls were offered to the Minotaur? Tick one.

- three
- seven
- thirteen
- fourteen

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred.

- Theseus and Ariadne asked Daedalus for help.
- Theseus defeated the Minotaur.
- Theseus and the children set sail for Crete.
- Aegeus begged Theseus not to go.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **Before Aegeus could even...**

Find and copy one word which means the same as **beat**.

4. Who gave Theseus the ball of string?

5. Add in the missing words to complete the sentence.

On the way back from Crete, Theseus forgot to change his _____-coloured sails to _____-coloured sails.

6. Imagine that you are Theseus about to fight the Minotaur.

Describe how you feel.

7. What do you think happened when Theseus arrived home? Explain your answer.

8. Describe King Minos's character using the text to help you.



The Story of Theseus and the Minotaur

King Minos of Crete, who believed that Athens was responsible for the loss of his son, would periodically attack the city. Wanting to prevent the attacks, the King of Athens, Aegeus, struck a deal with King Minos. Each year, he would send over seven Athenian boys and seven Athenian girls as an offering to King Minos's bloodthirsty beast – the Minotaur. In return, Minos would leave Athens alone.



Hands shaking, Theseus walked towards the door and went over the speech in his head. The days of Minos telling Athens what to do had gone on for long enough; it was time to take a stand. Hesitantly, he knocked. Aegeus called him inside and looked up proudly at the tall, muscular warrior his son had become.

Before Aegeus could greet him, Theseus began his speech. "This pact with Minos has gone on for long enough. Families are terrified that their children will be picked next. It's no way to live! We should be protecting our people – not offering them to a beast! Tomorrow, when the boat comes, I am going to take the place of one of the boys. Then, I will slay the Minotaur and put an end to this nightmare."



Aegeus was shocked. He knew that his son was strong but the Minotaur was so fierce that it had to be guarded deep within a complex maze. Aegeus pleaded with Theseus to find another way but he had already made up his mind. Eventually, Aegeus had to admit defeat.

"I will not rest until I know that you are safe," he told Theseus. "The moment that your ship crosses the horizon, I want to know that you have won. If you are successful, replace your ship's black sails with white ones. Then, I will know that you are coming home safely. I shall watch the sea from now until the moment I see those sails heading home." Theseus nodded and promised that his sails would be white.

Later that day, Theseus climbed into the ship alongside 13 panic-stricken children. The journey to Crete was smooth and, before long, they had arrived. When the boat pulled up to the shore, they were greeted by Minos and his

Theseus and the Minotaur

daughter, Ariadne. As Minos led the children to the palace to be prepared for the Minotaur, Ariadne pulled Theseus to one side. Desperate to escape from her father's anger, she told Theseus that she would help him if he promised to take her away from Crete.

Agreeing to help, Theseus and Ariadne approached Daedalus - the inventor of the labyrinth that the Minotaur was being kept in. Seeking a chance to be a hero, Daedalus agreed to help. Later that night, the three met at the entrance to the labyrinth.

Revealing a ball of string, Daedalus explained his plan. "This labyrinth has been designed to be so complicated that I can't even escape it. However, if you trail this string behind you, you will be able to use it to retrace your steps. Ariadne and I will stay here to secure it and ensure that nobody else enters. Good luck."



With that, the doors to the labyrinth closed and Theseus set off to find the Minotaur. Trailing the string behind him, he searched through the narrow, dim passages until, at last, he was face to face with the beast. The Minotaur was stronger but Theseus was quicker and smarter. After a mighty battle, Theseus emerged victorious: the Minotaur had been defeated.

Theseus immediately made his way to the shore with Ariadne. He had done it! No more children would ever have to meet the Minotaur. At last, Athens had been freed from Minos's deal. Feeling tired but content, Theseus hoisted the black sails of his ship and headed for home, forgetting all about the promise that he had made to his father.



Questions

1. Which word best describes Theseus's journey to Crete? Tick one.

- rough
- gentle
- unsettled
- rocky

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred.

- Minos began attacking the city of Athens.
- Theseus promised to take Ariadne away from Crete.
- Theseus set sail for Athens.
- Aegeus struck a deal with Minos.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **Aegeus was shocked**.

Find and copy one word or phrase which shows that Aegeus had given up.

4. Why did Ariadne help Theseus?

5. Name one way in which Theseus was better than the Minotaur.

6. Summarise Theseus's plan using 20 words or fewer.

7. Compare the characters of Theseus and Aegeus.

How are the two different?

8. ...**forgetting all about the promise that he had made to his father.**

Why do you think that the author has chosen to end the story like this? Explain your answer.

9. Do you think that Theseus was right to go and slay the Minotaur? Explain your answer fully.



The Story of Theseus and the Minotaur



After the loss of his son, King Minos of Crete waged war against Athens. Periodically, he would use his large army to storm the city and wreak havoc. Wanting to prevent the attacks, King Aegeus of Athens eventually struck a deal with King Minos. Each year, he would send over seven Athenian boys and seven Athenian girls as an offering to King Minos's bloodthirsty beast – the Minotaur. In return, Minos would cease the attacks.

Theseus was ready: he had rehearsed the lines in his head a thousand times. He could almost feel the fate of Athens and the fate of defenceless children in his hands. The tyranny of Minos had gone on for long enough; it was time to take a stand. Gingerly, he knocked on the door of his father's study. Aegeus called him inside and looked up at the tall, muscular warrior his son had become. To say that he was proud of Theseus would have been an understatement.

Before Aegeus could greet him, Theseus began his speech. "This pact with Minos has gone on for long enough. Families are terrified that their children will be picked next. It's no way to live! We should be protecting our people – not sending them off like lambs to the slaughter! Tomorrow, when the boat comes, I will take the place of one of the boys. Then, I will slay the Minotaur and put an end to this living nightmare."

Aegeus was aghast. He knew that his son was a fierce protector but to fight the Minotaur – a beast so fierce that it had to be guarded deep within a complex labyrinth – this was something else. Aegeus pleaded with Theseus to find another way; he couldn't bear to think of his son willingly throwing himself at such danger. Eventually, when his arguments had run dry, Aegeus relented.

"I will await the news of your success with bated breath," he told Theseus. "The moment that your ship materialises on the horizon, I want to know that you have won. Should you have been successful, replace your ship's black sails with white ones. I shall watch the sea from now until the moment I see those sails heading home." Theseus nodded and vowed that his sails would be white.



Theseus and the Minotaur

Later that day, the two embraced before Theseus climbed into the ship alongside 13 panic-stricken children. The journey to Crete was a smooth one and, before long, they had arrived. When the boat pulled up to the shore, they were met by Minos and his daughter, Ariadne. As Minos led the children to the palace to be cleaned and prepared, Ariadne pulled Theseus to one side. Desperate to escape from the world that her father had built, she offered to aid him in his quest in exchange for safe passage to Athens.

After promising her safe passage away from Crete, Theseus and Ariadne approached Daedalus – the inventor of the complex labyrinth which contained the Minotaur. Desperate to be a part of the heroic feat, Daedalus agreed to help. Later that night, the three met at the entrance to the labyrinth.

Revealing a ball of tightly-wound string, Daedalus explained his plan. "This labyrinth has been designed to be so complex that not even I can escape it. However, should you trail this string behind you, you will be able to retrace your steps. Ariadne and I will stay here to ensure that it stays secure and that nobody else enters. Good luck."

With that, the doors to the labyrinth slammed shut and Theseus set off to find the Minotaur. String trailing behind him, he searched the many lamp-lit passages until, at last, he was face to face with the beast. The Minotaur was stronger but Theseus was quicker and, in the low light of the maze, this proved to be more beneficial. After a mighty battle, Theseus emerged victorious: the Minotaur had been defeated.

Wanting to put as much distance between himself and King Minos as possible, Theseus made his way to shore with Ariadne. He had done it! No more children would have to cower in fear at the idea of meeting the Minotaur. At last, Athens had been freed from Minos's grasp. Tired from the fight and feeling the contentment of a job well done, Theseus hoisted the black sails of his ship and headed for home, forgetting all about the promise that he had made to his father.



Questions

1. Who did Theseus promise to take away from Crete? Tick one.

- King Minos
- King Aegeus
- Ariadne
- Daedalus

2. Draw four lines and complete each sentence.

King Minos...	was worried about what their father might say.
Ariadne...	wanted to be a hero.
Daedalus...	was angry at the loss of their son.
Theseus...	was desperate to escape from their father.

3. Why did Aegeus eventually give in to Theseus?

4. ...**forgetting all about the promise that he had made to his father.**

What promise had Theseus made?

5. Look at the paragraph beginning "**I will await the news...**"

Find and copy one word which means the same as appears.

6. Argue that Theseus was foolish to defeat the Minotaur.

7. Imagine that you are Aegeus watching Theseus's ship appear over the horizon. Describe how you feel, using the text to support your answer.

8. Using 25 words or fewer, write a suitable next sentence for the text.

9. Do you think that Aegeus was right to strike a deal with Minos? Tick one.

- yes
- no

Fully explain your answer.



