

Theseus and the Minotaur

A long time ago on the island of Crete was a monster. He lived in a maze. He was called the Minotaur.

The island was ruled by King Minos. He did not like the people of Athens, a city in Greece. This was because many years ago the Athenians had killed Minos' son. This made Minos very angry. He said every nine years, 14 young Athenians would have to go into the maze. Here they would be killed by the Minotaur.

Another 9 years went by. It was time for the Athenians to send 14 more boys and girls.

In Athens they had a king called Aegeus. He had a son called Theseus. Theseus was a brave, young man who loved adventures. He really wanted to kill the Minotaur.

"No son! I do not want you to go. You will be killed. Do not get on that boat to Crete!"

"But Dad, I know I can kill this monster," said Theseus. "Do not worry. When I come back, I shall make sure the sail of the boat is white. This means I have won!"

So Theseus set sail and got to Crete. He met both King Minos and his beautiful Daughter Ariadne.

"I have come to kill the monster. I am not scared of it at all!" said Theseus.

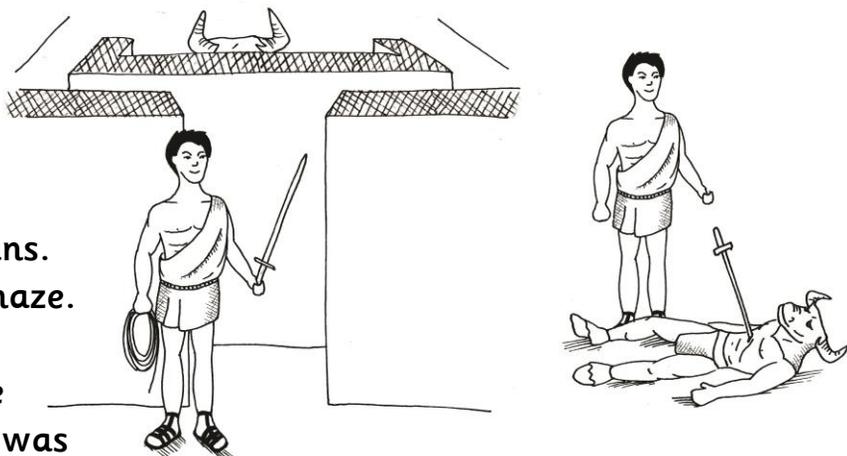
"HOW DARE YOU SAY THIS! YOUR PEOPLE KILLED MY SON!" roared King Minos.

Ariadne fell in love with Theseus. She thought he was a brave man wanting to kill the monster. She said that she would help him to kill the Minotaur. It was a promise. Theseus thought she was kind and said he would marry her as a gift.

Ariadne gave Theseus a sword and a ball of golden thread. "Tie the thread to the entrance of the maze. Then, unwind the string as you go to find the Minotaur. Kill the Minotaur with this sword. Follow the thread to get back out!"

The next day, Theseus followed what Ariadne said. He entered the maze with the other young Athenians. Theseus moved through the maze.

He came face to face with the large monster. The monster was very scary and strong. He roared and ran at Theseus. It was very hard but Theseus finally killed the Minotaur!



Quickly, Theseus used the thread to escape. With the other Athenians and Ariadne, he got on the boat and left Crete. They went to another island.

Ariadne was so happy. But, this did not last long. Theseus said that he did not love her. He left Ariadne on the island and went home to Athens.

But Theseus forgot one thing. He did not change the sail to white! Seeing the black sail King Aegeus screamed. He thought his son had been killed by the Minotaur.

"Darling Theseus!" cried Aegeus. He was so upset that he jumped off the high rocks into the sea.

Theseus was very upset at the huge mistake he had made. He became the next King of Athens but he was sad.

Jenny Turner

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1. What is the monster called and where does he live? (AF2)
2. Why does King Minos not like the people of Athens? (AF2)
3. Describe what you think Theseus is like. (AF3)
4. Who do you think says, “No son! I do not want you to go. You will be killed. Do not get on that boat to Crete!”? (AF3)
5. Why has the author put some words in capital letters? (AF5)
6. Why does Ariadne help Theseus to kill the monster? (AF3)
7. What huge mistake does Theseus make? How do you think he feels at the end of the story? (AF2/AF6)

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1. What is the monster called and where does he live? (AF2) **The Minotaur. In a maze on the island of Crete.**
2. Why does King Minos not like the people of Athens? (AF2) **They had killed his son.**
3. Describe what you think Theseus is like. (AF3) **He is a brave young man who enjoys adventures. He is not scared of the Minotaur or King Minos.**
4. Who do you think says, “No son! I do not want you to go. You will be killed. Do not set foot on that boat to Crete!”? (AF3) **King Aegeus of Athens.**
5. Why has the author put some words in capital letters? (AF5) **To make it clear that King Minos is shouting the words very loudly in anger.**
6. Why does Ariadne help Theseus to kill the monster? (AF3) **She falls in love with him and so wants to help him.**
7. What huge mistake does Theseus make? How do you think he feels at the end of the story? (AF2/AF6) **He forgets to change the sail from black to white and so his father thinks he has been killed by the Minotaur. Aegeus jumps off the rocks because he is so upset. Theseus would have been deeply upset and felt guilty that he is the cause of his father’s death, despite his great victory in Crete.**