

YEAR 3 w/c 6th July

ENGLISH ACTIVITIES

1. Story time

Read the story [Icarus](#). If you have read this story before, enjoy reading it again and, this time, think about different things – we are exploring the features of myth.

2. Responding to a story

Read and think carefully about the discussion points on [Exploring Icarus](#).

- Record your responses on [The Story of Icarus](#).
- When you have done this, check what you thought against the [Answers](#) below. These answers are not necessarily right – they are just to make you think. Yours might well be better!

3. Retelling the story aloud.

Read each of the [Key Plot Points](#).

- Cut out and sequence the points, checking with the [Answers](#) sheet to confirm you have ordered them correctly.
- Using the plot points to help you, practise retelling the tale orally.
- Recount the story to your family using your best storytelling voice.

4. Describe the monster

On [The Minotaur](#), draw your version of the monster and write a paragraph describing him.

5. Comparing two versions of the same story

Go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVkwWo_LNZs&t=184s.

- Watch the animated version of the story.
- Read *Different Versions of Greek Myths* and then use *Differences* to compare the two versions of *Icarus* that you have read and listened to.

6. Reading and writing diaries

Look at *Daedalus's Diary*.

- Read the diary entry and the instructions that go with it.
- On the *diary paper*, write Icarus's diary entry, detailing the boy's experiences and saying how much he regrets not listening to his Dad.

7. Story time

Referring to the *Discussion Points* as you go, read the first half of the longer version of the story of *Icarus* below.

- Pause at the indicated places and think about the discussion points.
- Stop at 'That's how we'll escape – we'll fly!'

8. Reading instructions

Read *Luring the Minotaur into the Labyrinth*.

These are the instructions that Daedalus provided for King Minos.

- Read what to do. Use a felt pen to highlight the features of the text.
- Check your work using the *Answers* at the end of these resources.

9. Writing instructions

Look at *Getting out of the labyrinth*.

- Read what you have to do.
- Use *How to find and operate the hidden door* to write out Daedalus's instructions.

Exploring *Icarus*

1. This is an ancient myth. The characters often represent or stand for qualities in people or particular types of person. They say that Daedalus represents 'cleverness' or 'genius'. What do you think Icarus represents? What does Minos represent?



2. How might the story have been different? How else might Daedalus and Icarus have tried to escape. Can you think of another way?

3. Myths explore things that are really difficult for people to deal with. They highlight issues that human beings find hard. What difficult issues do you think are being explored in this story?

The Story of Icarus

1.

2.

3.

Answers to Exploring Icarus Questions

1. This is an ancient myth. The characters often represent or stand for qualities in people or particular types of person. They say that Daedalus represents 'cleverness' or 'genius'. What do you think Icarus represents? What does Minos represent?

Icarus seems to be a victim – it is not really his fault that he falls into the sea. He is a child and he doesn't really listen to what his father tells him. So perhaps he stands for innocent children, or perhaps he stands for children who don't listen to what the grown-ups are saying. Minos is a cruel and evil man. He stands for rulers who are arrogant, proud and cruel.

2. How might the story have been different? How else might Daedalus and Icarus have tried to escape. Can you think of another way?

The story could have ended more happily if Icarus had maybe had a bad shock but not died. Perhaps he could have fallen into the sea and been rescued by a ship? They could have escaped by making parachutes that could have carried them down from the tower, and then they could have disguised themselves and run away? Or perhaps they could have disguised themselves as the guards who brought in the food?

Myths explore things that are really difficult for people to deal with. They highlight issues that human beings find hard. What difficult issues do you think are being explored in this story?

The story might be making us think about how it is possible for a person to be arrogant and to think they can do anything they want to. Daedalus was asking the impossible of Icarus who was only a child. Also, it might be warning us that it is dangerous to go too close to the sun – we should treat the sun and the stars with respect. Maybe it is telling us that there should be some limits to what we do and ask other people to do. We should not over-reach ourselves.

Key Plot Points

King Minos refuses to let Daedalus and Icarus leave, and locks them up.

Daedalus and Icarus make wings to try and escape.

Daedalus and Icarus fix their wings and prepare to leave – Daedalus warns Icarus about flying too close to the sun.

Daedalus builds a maze for the Minotaur at King Minos's request.

Icarus flies too close to the sun, his wings melt and he falls into the sea.

Daedalus and Icarus are stuck in a tower for years.

Daedalus and Icarus fly away but Icarus doesn't stick to the plan.

Key Plot Points – Answers

1. Daedalus builds a maze for the Minotaur at King Minos's request.
2. King Minos refuses to let Daedalus and Icarus leave, and locks them up.
3. Daedalus and Icarus are stuck in a tower for years.
4. Daedalus and Icarus make wings to try and escape.
5. Daedalus and Icarus fix their wings and prepare to leave – Daedalus warns Icarus about flying too close to the sun.
6. Daedalus and Icarus fly away but Icarus doesn't stick to the plan.
7. Icarus flies too close to the sun and his wings melt and he falls into the sea.

The Minotaur

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The paper is framed by a decorative border composed of various colored interlocking puzzle pieces, including shades of blue, yellow, red, green, and grey. The puzzle pieces are arranged in a continuous pattern around the edges of the page. The central area of the page is divided into eight equal-width horizontal sections by thin grey lines, providing space for writing or drawing.

Different Versions of Greek Myths



Greek myths have been told and retold many times over the centuries. With each telling, some of the details of the story change so that, over time, you end up with lots of slightly different versions of the same story.

What differences did you notice between the Icarus story you read and the animation you watched?

On **Differences**, write full sentences about all the things you spotted that are different.

Call the book you read 'the story' and the version you watched online 'the animation'.

but yet while whereas

Try using these conjunctions to help you write your comparing sentences

In the story Daedalus and Icarus are locked in a tower but in the animation, they have to go into the labyrinth.

This image shows a full-page template for writing or drawing. It features a white background with horizontal grey lines spaced evenly down the page. The entire sheet is framed by a decorative border made of interlocking puzzle pieces in various colors including blue, yellow, red, green, and orange. The puzzle pieces form a continuous frame around the central writing area.

Daedalus's Diary

Dear Diary,

It has been an awful day! Although I am so glad to be free of that dreadful King Minos and to finally be away from the island of Crete, the labyrinth and the Minotaur, I just can't bear to think about what might have happened to my dear, dear son, Icarus.



It all started so well, with the wings that I had designed working perfectly and letting us flap our way gently to freedom. I had spoken very seriously to Icarus about not letting himself get too close to either the sea or the sun. For a while at least, he did just as I had asked him. But then his adventurous spirit got the better of him and he started flying higher and higher, circling up towards the fiery rays of the midday sun. The wax on his wings melted and the feathers fell away, leaving him to tumble headlong into the sea.

If only I had been firmer with him. I should have made him fly right next to me so that I could keep an eye on him. He always was a headstrong and impetuous child – and now I have lost him. What shall I do?

.....

But wait – Icarus is safe! He was picked up from the sea by a fishing boat and taken home to Athens.

On the lined paper, write Icarus's diary entry, explaining what happened from his point of view and how he feels about having not listened to his father's advice.

What does Icarus decide he will do the next morning?

Diary

A blank diary page with a decorative orange and black border. The page is ruled with horizontal lines, providing space for writing. The border features a repeating pattern of orange zig-zags and black dots.

Discussion Points



Start to read the story of *Icarus*.

When you get to the line, ‘...pedalling toys like a common salesman,’ **pause**.

Q. We learn that Daedalus and Icarus have had to leave their home city of Athens and have been ‘on the run’ ever since, moving from place to place. What does ‘on the run’ mean? How do you think Icarus would feel about having to do this? How would you feel if you had to leave your home behind and hide in all sorts of different places?

Continue but pause again at ‘...keeping the Minotaur in its labyrinthine gaol.’

Q. We learn about King Minos in the opening part of the story – what he does and what he is like. Circle all of the words and phrases in the list below that you think describe King Minos well. Can you think of any other words or phrases that would be good to describe him?

inventive	humorous	fearful	resourceful	dull
	arrogant	cruel	disorganised	

Carry on reading but finish at, ‘That’s how we’ll escape – we’ll fly.’

Q. Look at the last paragraph you have read, that starts, ‘The gulls flew screeching...’. Look at all the powerful verbs used in this paragraph, such as *screeching*. Which is your favourite? Why do you think it is such an effective verb?

The Story of Icarus

Once upon a time there was a boy who tried to fly. He flew with his father, soaring over the shining, sun-dappled sea. His father, who had created the wings which enabled them to fly, was the most brilliant, the most cunning, the most inventive designer who ever lived. But in his past was a dark secret, and a labyrinth and a monster so terrible it could not be spoken of. The boy's name was Icarus. His father, Daedalus, had escaped from Athens after his nephew, Talos, had died under very peculiar and suspicious circumstances. Daedalus never spoke to Icarus about what had happened – about how it was that Talos had fallen, spiralling down from the roof of the highest tower in Athens. But he knew that he and his father had been on the run ever since, moving from city to city. Daedalus designed and made moving toys of intricate detail and extraordinary complexity, and sold them in the markets as they travelled. The greatest designer and inventor in Greece was reduced to pedalling toys like a common salesman!

Finally they found themselves in Crete, in the city of Knossos, where Minos the king had his palace. Soon the rumour spread around the capital that Daedalus was making amazing toys, and that these could be bought in the market. The richest and most important families in Knossos flocked to ensure that their children became the proud owners of a set of toy soldiers that marched up a hill, or a wooden bird that flapped its brightly feathered wings and opened its beak to catch a fish. In due course, the fame of these wonderful toys spread to the palace, and Daedalus was summoned by the king himself.



Minos was not a nice man. He had tried to cheat Poseidon, the god of the sea, and had ended up with a terrible and dark secret.

His wife had given birth to a monster – half gigantic bull and half man – named the Minotaur. This was a beast so huge and so horrible that no one could look on it without fainting. It devoured human flesh, and the king was terribly afraid that, if the Minotaur escaped, his country would live in fear forever, and his kingship would be destroyed. Minos wanted Daedalus to design and build a huge cage for the Minotaur – one that would keep it safe forever, a cage from which it could never, ever escape.

Daedalus took up the king's challenge. He built a labyrinth beneath the palace; a labyrinth so complicated that anyone entering the maze would be caught in its web of passages, and would never be able to find their way out again. The Minotaur was released into the labyrinth and, every year, each of the countries ruled by Minos was forced to send seven young men

and seven maidens to the labyrinth to feed the monster's foul appetites. But, despite the fact that his terrible secret was at last safely imprisoned in the labyrinth, Minos was not a happy man. For Daedalus now knew of his secret. And Daedalus, alone amongst men, also knew the secret ways and paths of the labyrinth itself. Minos could not stand the thought of Daedalus having this knowledge and so, one night, as Daedalus and his son slept, he had them rounded up and thrown, without any warning, into the labyrinth itself. Icarus was terrified, but Daedalus calmed him. "Fear not," he reminded him, "for I built this prison, and by that knowledge we shall escape."

As the Minotaur's roars got nearer and nearer, Daedalus and Icarus ran through the maze of passages, Daedalus counting the twists and turns. Just as the Minotaur was about to turn the last corner and devour them, Daedalus touched a rock and opened a secret doorway which led to the cliff wall at the edge of the sea. Pushing Icarus through first, he hurled himself out just as the door slammed shut, keeping the Minotaur in its labyrinth goal.

But now, Icarus and Daedalus were really scared. Wherever they went on the island, they would be captured and killed by the king's soldiers. They spent the day miserably crouching in a small cave at the foot of the cliff on the edge of the shore. The sea gulls flew screeching in and out of their cave, bringing fish to the baby birds, who leant screaming over the sides of their nests, balanced precariously on ledges along the cliff face. Daedalus watched the swooping of the gulls as they skimmed the water's surface before flying gracefully round and back to their young. He watched as feathers fell from their nests and fluttered gently downwards, and, as he watched, Daedalus, ever inventive, had an idea.

"We'll fly!" he exclaimed suddenly to his startled son. "We'll fly away. That's how we'll escape. We'll fly!"



Luring the Minotaur into the Labyrinth

These instructions will enable you to capture the Minotaur and safely install him in his new labyrinth home.



1. Open the entrance door to the labyrinth wide but tie a fine, strong cord to the handle so that the door can be pulled shut as soon as it is needed.
2. Now bury this cord in the sand so that it is invisible to the Minotaur's keen sight.
3. Just within the labyrinth, place a deep dish of tasty food that will draw the wary Minotaur into the maze with its delicious, tempting smells. As the Minotaur is a carnivore, a huge mixed grill of sausages, chops, burgers and steaks would do the job well.
4. Make sure your soldiers are well hidden and ready to pull the door shut just as soon as the Minotaur is properly within the maze.
5. Next, force one of your servants to run in front of the Minotaur to catch his attention and lead the ravening beast towards the labyrinth.
6. When the servant reaches the building, get him to duck quickly out of sight.
7. Let the smells from the meat now pull the Minotaur into the trap.
8. Finally, slam the door shut with the ravening beast inside and bolt the door firmly.

Instructions usually begin with a sentence or two explaining what the instructions are **for**. Where is this section in the instructions above?

Thereafter, a set of instructions is written as a series of **commands**. Highlight a command sentence in Daedalus's instructions.

In a command, verbs are in the **imperative or 'bossy'** form (*Move, Make, Do not stop, etc.*) Highlight three verbs in the imperative form in the text.

Some verbs are in the **present tense** rather than in the past tense (*I reach the door*). Highlight some verbs in the present tense.

Instructions follow a sequence or set order, and use **sequencing words and phrases** to indicate this (*Then, Following this, Once you have..., Lastly, etc.*). Highlight these.

Getting out of the labyrinth



You are going to write Daedalus's instructions for how to find and operate the hidden door in the labyrinth.

Use all the key features of instruction writing that you found in his instructions for capturing the Minotaur.

Think about the kinds of things Daedalus would say when telling someone how to find the door. Perhaps you would need to count a certain number of right turns and then a certain number of left turns? Maybe there are things that a person has to look for with their eyes, feel for with their hands or even listen for to tell them they are on the right path (special crystals in the walls, markings cut into the stone, the sound of the sea on the other side of the wall, coming through a cleverly-cut hole, almost like a loudspeaker.)

In the book it just says that Daedalus touched a special rock to open the door, but can you go into more detail in your instructions? Maybe you must turn something or fit a special key into the rock? Maybe you have to tap a kind of code into the rock before it will open.

Think up really imaginative instructions for how to find and open the door!

Record these on the special line paper and then follow the instructions for making them look like an Ancient Greek manuscript.

How to find and operate the hidden door

A decorative border made of colorful interlocking puzzle pieces (red, yellow, blue, green, orange) surrounds a large white rectangular area. The white area is divided into 15 horizontal lines, providing space for writing or drawing.

Luring the Minotaur into the Labyrinth - Answers

These instructions will enable you to capture the Minotaur and safely install him in his new labyrinth home.

1. Open the entrance door to the labyrinth wide but tie a fine, strong cord to the handle so that the door can be pulled shut as soon as it is needed.
2. Now bury this cord in the sand so that it is invisible to the Minotaur's keen sight.
3. Just within the labyrinth, place a deep dish of tasty food that will draw the wary Minotaur into the maze with its delicious, tempting smells. As the Minotaur is a carnivore, a huge mixed grill of sausages, chops, burgers and steaks would do the job well.
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7. Let the smells from the meat now pull the Minotaur into the trap.
8. Finally, slam the door shut with the ravening beast inside and bolt the door firmly.

Instructions usually begin with a sentence or two explaining what the instructions are **for**. Where is this section in the instructions above? **Yellow highlights**

Thereafter, a set of instructions is written as a series of **commands**. Highlight a command sentence in Daedalus's instructions. **Blue highlights**

In a command, verbs are in the **imperative or 'bossy'** form (*Move, Make, Do not stop*, etc.) Highlight three verbs in the imperative form in the text. **Underlined**

Some verbs are in the **present tense** rather than in the past tense (*I reach the door*). Highlight some verbs in the present tense. **Green highlights**

Instructions follow a sequence or set order, and use **sequencing words and phrases** to indicate this (*Then, Following this, Once you have..., Lastly*, etc.). Highlight these. **Grey highlights**

Making an Ancient Greek Manuscript

Use tea bags and wax to create an Ancient Greek manuscript to write your instructions out on. **Ask an adult to help you with this activity.**



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1. Heat the oven to approximately 160°.
2. Put two tea bags in a large (bigger than A4) baking tray and add warm water so that you have a couple of centimetres depth.
3. Allow the tea mixture to infuse, darken and cool down.
4. Lay a sheet of white A4 paper in the tea and leave to soak for a few minutes.
5. Transfer the wet sheet to another baking tray and place in the oven to dry out.



6. Check the paper occasionally, turning if need be to keep the sheet flat as it dries.
7. When dry, tear at the paper's edge to make it look older. You can also ask a grown up to singe the edges with a flame to create a similar, aged effect.
8. Write out Daedalus's instructions in your neatest handwriting. Watch out – pencil is not easy to read on tea paper. A black pen is much better.
9. Roll or fold up your instructions and get help from an adult to seal them with dripping wax from a lit candle. Who knows – you might even be able to use beeswax, like Daedalus did on his and Icarus's wings!