

What to do today

IMPORTANT! Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and with any weblinks or use of the Internet required.

1. Story time

Read and enjoy **Hamilton Story *Icarus***, by R. Merttens and A. Holm Petersen.

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. Reading a text version of the story

Read *Icarus* – text version. Think about how it is different to the story-book version you finished earlier.

- ❖ Which one do you prefer?
- ❖ Read *Which I prefer and why*. Think about Susila's and Jacob's reasons.
- ❖ Explain your reasons for your choice. Give three reasons.

4. 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.

Now try these Fun-Time Extras

- Go to <https://www.allkidsnetwork.com/mazes/>. Try solving the maze puzzles. Draw your own labyrinth or maze on squared paper!

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 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.

Icarus - text version

The myth of Daedalus and Icarus tells the story of a father and a son who used wings to escape from the island of Crete. Icarus has become better-known as the flyer who fell from the sky when the wax that joined his wings was melted by the heat of the sun. The tragic fall of Icarus begins with his father, in fact, in a way, Icarus suffered and paid for Daedalus deeds.



Daedalus used to work as an artisan in Athens, together with a skillful apprentice named Talus. In a moment of rage and jealousy, Daedalus pushed Talus off the rock of the Acropolis but was unable to kill him. Goddess Athena turned the apprentice into a bird and Daedalus, charged with murder, was forced to seek refuge on Crete, the island where dwelt the minotaur, a terrible beast said to be half man and half bull.

Once on the island of Crete, Daedalus started a new life working in the palace of King Minos. Under King Minos's orders, Daedalus was asked to build a space able to contain the Minotaur. But instead of coming up with a prison cell, Daedalus decided that a complex labyrinth would be the best place to hide the monster. It was such a perfect construction that those entering the maze were never able to leave.

However, the existence of a Minotaur was secret to most of the inhabitants of the island and wanting the monster to remain so, the king locked up Daedalus and his family so that the secret would never be revealed.

Cunningly, Daedalus elaborated an idea to escape that did not require going over land or sea. The only possible way that they could leave the island would have been to be able to fly. Thus, Daedalus started gathering feathers from birds which he later transformed into wings stuck together with wax. One pair of wings was going to be for him and the other for Icarus, his son.



When the moment to escape arrived, Daedalus warned Icarus not to fly too close to the sun, but he did not listen to his father and fell into the sea when, after getting too close to the sun, the wax in his wings melted and fell apart.



Graffiti on a wall on the island of Icarus

Which I prefer and why



Susifa

I prefer the story book version because:

- ❖ *It has illustrations and these help you to see the characters.*
- ❖ *It makes the story really clear as each page tells a part.*
- ❖ *It has good descriptive language like 'far too close' and 'flapped his arms frantically' which make the story vivid.*



Jacob

I prefer the text version because:

- ❖ *It is longer so it has more detail.*
- ❖ *I like to be able to imagine the characters for myself. I don't want pictures.*
- ❖ *It begins by explaining that the story is a powerful myth and why it is telling us something about human nature.*

Which I prefer and why _____

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.