

POWERFUL PRINCESS ARIADNE

Based on the Myth of Theseus and the Minotaur

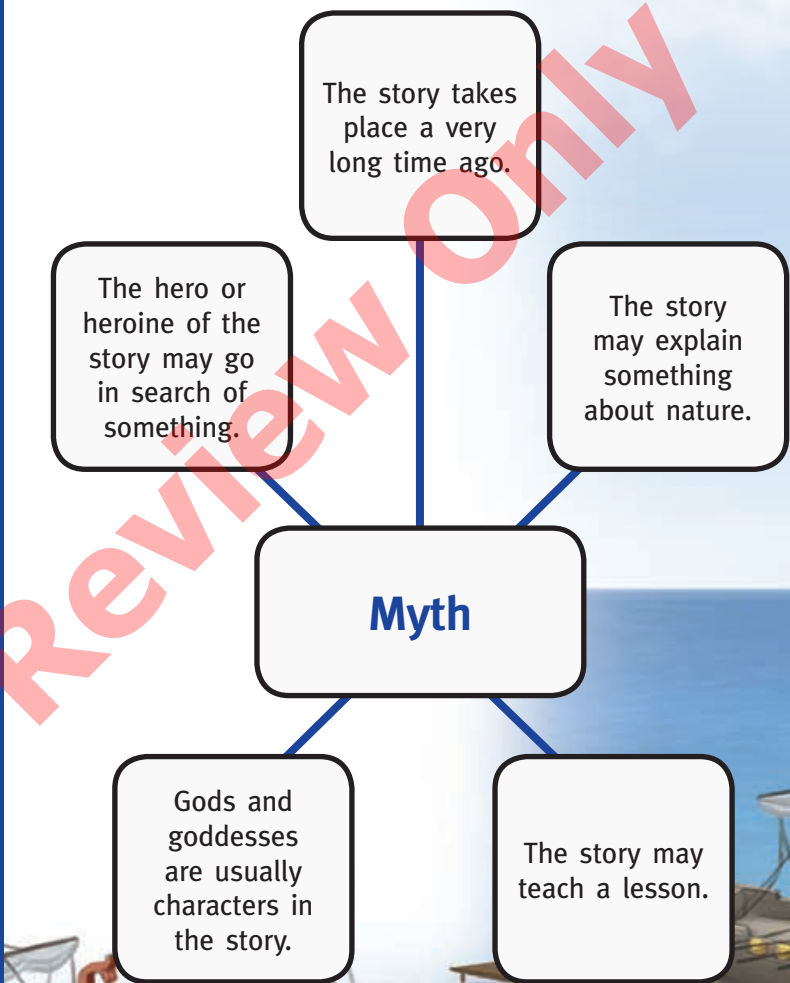


MYTH
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Myth

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A FATHER'S DEAL



Long ago, on the island of Crete, Princess Ariadne lived happily with her parents. King Minos and Queen Pasiphaë did everything to make their daughter's wishes come true, except one.

“If only you could bring back my kind brother, Androgeos,” said the Princess, sadly. Androgeos had been killed accidentally on a visit to Athens, a neighboring kingdom.

The loss of Androgeos left an empty place in King Minos’s heart, too. He blamed Aegeus, the king of Athens. He often spoke about his plans to take revenge.

“I’m going to send my ships to Athens. I will destroy their navy. King Aegeus will know how it feels to lose people you love,” said King Minos.

“Father, please don’t make war on Athens,” said Princess Ariadne. “Androgeos’s death was an accident. He was a peaceful person. He wouldn’t want to cause a war.”

“I’ve made up my mind,” said King Minos. “Besides, my warriors need a good fight!”

King Aegeus heard about the plans. He sailed to Crete, hoping to talk King Minos out of waging war.

“King Minos,” pleaded King Aegeus, “is there some way we can work out our differences? I regret that your son died in Athens. You’re a good and noble king. Please, please consider my request. Think about the lives of all of our subjects.”

King Minos stroked his chin in thought. “I’ll make a deal with you,” he said. “I will give you two years of peace. At the end of those two years, you will send me fourteen young people. Do you agree to this?”

King Aegeus hesitated. He had heard the rumors of King Minos’s Minotaur, a half-bull, half-human monster. King Minos would send the Minotaur “playmates,” who were never heard from again. King Aegeus knew nothing good would come to those fourteen people. But he didn’t have another choice. He agreed.



Princess Ariadne was listening nearby. After King Aegeus left, she approached her father.

“Can’t you let go of your anger? It won’t bring back my brother,” she said.

“My mind is made up. I’ll never let this go!” shouted King Minos. “Aegeus should be grateful that I showed any mercy at all!”

“Then I cannot stay here,” said Ariadne. She moved away, hoping her father’s anger toward the neighboring kingdom would soften.





A DIFFICULT CHOICE



The kingdom of Athens enjoyed peace for the next two years. As the deadline grew closer, King Aegeus hadn't found a way out of the deal with King Minos.

Finally, King Aegeus told his son, Prince Theseus, about the deal with Crete.

“Father, how could you agree to this?” cried Theseus. “I’ve heard stories about the Minotaur. When he gets bored with his playmates, he eats them!”

“I had no choice,” said King Aegeus, sighing. “It was either agree or risk losing more people in a battle we could not win.”

“I can’t let this happen,” Prince Theseus said. “I’ll go to Crete and kill the Minotaur.”

King Aegeus’s heart sank. “Don’t be foolish. The beast is strong. King Minos is still angry about the death of his son. He will take his revenge, one way or another.”

Prince Theseus nodded. “That may be true. I’ll go to Crete with the fourteen young people. He’ll think we are honoring the deal. Then I’ll kill the Minotaur and come home again.”