

Theseus and the Minotaur

King Minos of Crete, was a powerful man and owned a magnificent palace. Inside this palace was a giant maze, known as a labyrinth and at the centre of this labyrinth was a terrifying beast called a Minotaur.

The Minotaur had the head of a bull and the body of a man and humans were his favourite food. Every year the King of Athens would send 7 men and 7 women to Crete to go into the Labyrinth for the Minotaur to eat. He did this to avoid King Minos declaring war on Athens.

Theseus, the son of the King of Athens did not agree to this and vowed to go into the Labyrinth with the other men and women as one of the sacrifices so he could kill the beast.



Once in Crete, Theseus offered to go into the maze first, declaring his intentions to kill the Minotaur.

Ariadne, the daughter of King Minos, fell in love with Theseus instantly and wanted to help him defeat the beast. She visited him secretly in the night and gave him a ball of string, telling him to tie one end to the entrance so he could find his way back if he killed the Minotaur.

Theseus promised to take Ariadne back to Athens and marry her if he was successful.

Inside the labyrinth Theseus came face to face with the Minotaur and fought long and hard using all of his strength to defeat the beast. Eventually he heard the Minotaur's neck snap and fall to the floor with a thud.

Theseus found the string that Ariadne had offered him and he followed the path of string back to the entrance where Ariadne was waiting for him. Theseus proclaimed to Ariadne that he would take her back to Athens with him, filling her with hopes of marriage and a lifetime of happiness. In truth, however, Theseus did not want to be with Ariadne and he abandoned her, alone, on an island called Naxos.

All was not lost for Ariadne though as she cried in despair watching Theseus' ship sail away, for she was discovered by Bacchus, the god of wine who was passing by with his followers. Bacchus fell in love with Ariadne at first sight. They were married soon after, with him giving her the sky as a wedding gift in which one day, he promised her, she would become a constellation.

This story plan for writing a myth is all jumbled up. Can you sequence the plot?

The hero of the story is described and introduced.

The problem is solved.

The hero goes on a journey to find a solution.

There is a problem.

The hero is given a special object, gift or talent to help in the task.

The title contains the name of the characters in the story.