

## Theseus and the Minotaur by Kate Ruttle

King Minos lived on a Greek island named Crete. Every nine years, the king of nearby Athens gave King Minos seven young men and seven young women as a peace offering, so that Minos would not attack Athens. The young people were sent to a maze beneath Minos's palace, where the Minotaur lived. This fearsome monster had the body of a strong man but the head of a bull. The Minotaur ate anyone who entered the maze.

Prince Theseus of Athens stormed at his father. "It's wrong that we are sending our youths to be eaten by Minos's monster. This year, I will go as one of the seven young men. But I will not be eaten. Instead, I will slay the monster."

When the young people from Athens arrived on Crete, they were met by King Minos's daughter, Ariadne. Immediately, she fell in love with Prince Theseus and vowed to help him to kill the monster if, in return, Theseus would help her to escape from the island.

That night, Theseus slipped out of the palace and went to the entrance of the labyrinth where the Minotaur lived. Ariadne met him and returned his sharp sword, which had been taken from him, along with a ball of string. "When you enter the labyrinth," she said to him, "tie the string to the door. Unroll it as you go through the maze. That way, you will be able to find your way back to me. And as for the sword? Well, you know what to do with that!"



- 1 Look at the first paragraph.  
**Find and copy two** words that mean *a gift given to someone so they won't start a fight or continue an argument*.

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2a  
  
1 mark

- 2 *The Minotaur was a dangerous monster.*  
Find evidence to support this statement. You do not have to copy words.

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2b  
  
1 mark

- 3 The writer states that Theseus "*stormed at his father*".  
How does this tell us he was feeling? Choose **one**.

- aggressive   
determined   
excited   
disappointed

2g  
  
1 mark

- 4 Why did Ariadne vow to help Theseus?

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2d  
  
1 mark

- 5 What did Ariadne expect Theseus to do with the sword?

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2e  
  
1 mark

- 6 Choose which of the following facts are true and which are false.

	True	False
The Minotaur ate people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Minotaur lived in the palace.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Minotaur lived in Athens.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Minotaur had the head of a man and the body of a bull.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2b  
  
2 marks