

Year 4 English Tasks: week beginning 1st February 2021

Monday 1st February 2021

Task: Watch today's English video (see video link on Year 4 Home Learning timetable). Now answer the comprehension questions about the story.

Theseus and the Minotaur

Long ago, there lived a king named Minos who was king of the island of Crete. King Minos had a beautiful daughter and lived in a wonderful palace. However, he often got bored. Whenever this happened, he instructed his powerful navy to attack Athens, a city on the other side of the sea.

The king of Athens got really fed up with being attacked, and in desperation, he offered King Minos a deal. If King Minos would leave Athens alone, he would send him seven Athenian boys and seven Athenian girls every nine years, to feed to the Minotaur. The Minotaur was a horrible monster who was half human and half bull. It lived in the centre of a huge labyrinth – an enormous complicated maze. King Minos knew that the minotaur enjoyed eating humans and he realised that this was his chance to feed it, without sacrificing any of his own people - so he willingly accepted the deal.

Nine years passed, and it was time to send seven Athenian boys and seven Athenian girls to Crete to be eaten by the Minotaur. Everyone in Athens was crying. Prince Theseus of Athens was quite young, but he understood that a deal was a deal, and that it should be kept. However, he also understood that it was wrong to send children to be eaten by a monster just to avoid a battle. Bravely, Prince Theseus told his father that he was going to Crete as one of the seven Athenian boys and that he would kill the Minotaur and end this terror. The king of Athens became worried.

"The Minotaur is a terrible monster - how will you be able to kill it?" he asked.

"I will find a way," replied Prince Theseus, "The gods will help me."

The king of Athens begged his son not to go, but Prince Theseus had made up his mind. The king could only watch as his son sailed off towards Crete with the other Athenian boys and girls, to be fed to the terrifying monster.

When the prince and the children arrived on the island of Crete, King Minos and his daughter, Princess Ariadne, came out to greet them. The king told the children that they would not be fed to the minotaur until the next day, and to enjoy themselves in the palace until then! Princess Ariadne did not speak, but later that night, she wrote Prince Theseus a note and slipped it under his bedroom door.

The note read:

Dear Prince Theseus

I am a very beautiful princess, as I am sure you noticed the moment you saw me. However, I am also a very bored princess. Without my help, you will be eaten by the ghastly Minotaur, but I know a trick that will save your life.

If I help you kill the monster, you must promise to take me away from this tiny island so that others can admire my great beauty. If you are interested in this deal, meet me by the gate to the Labyrinth in one hour.

Yours truly,

Princess Ariadne

Prince Theseus slipped out of the palace and waited patiently by the gate. When Princess Ariadne arrived, she was carrying a sword and a ball of string. She handed them to Prince Theseus and whispered her instructions. Prince Theseus thanked Princess Ariadne for her help.

"Don't forget," she reminded him. "You must take me with you when you leave so that more people can admire my beauty. Remember, a deal is a deal."

The next morning, the Athenian children were pushed into the maze and the door was locked behind them. Theseus followed Ariadne's instructions. He tied one end of the string to the door. The other children waited by the door to make sure that the string stayed in place, and Theseus would be able to find his way back. Then Theseus went into the maze alone, unravelling the string as he went.

Eventually, Theseus found himself in the centre of the intricate maze. Using the sword Princess Ariadne had given him, Theseus killed the monster. Then he carefully followed the string back to the door, and knocked. Princess Ariadne was waiting and opened the door. Without anyone noticing, Prince Theseus and the Athenian children crept back to their ship and sailed away, taking the princess with them.

On the way home, they stopped for supplies on the tiny island of Naxos. Princess Ariadne insisted on coming ashore, so that the people could see her beauty. However, there was very little to do on the island and she lay down and fell asleep. All the people gathered to watch Princess Ariadne sleeping - she was certainly a beautiful sight. Meanwhile, Prince Theseus sailed quietly away from Naxos with the children of Athens, leaving the sleeping Princess Ariadne behind. As they sailed away Prince Theseus smiled to himself - a deal is a deal he thought!

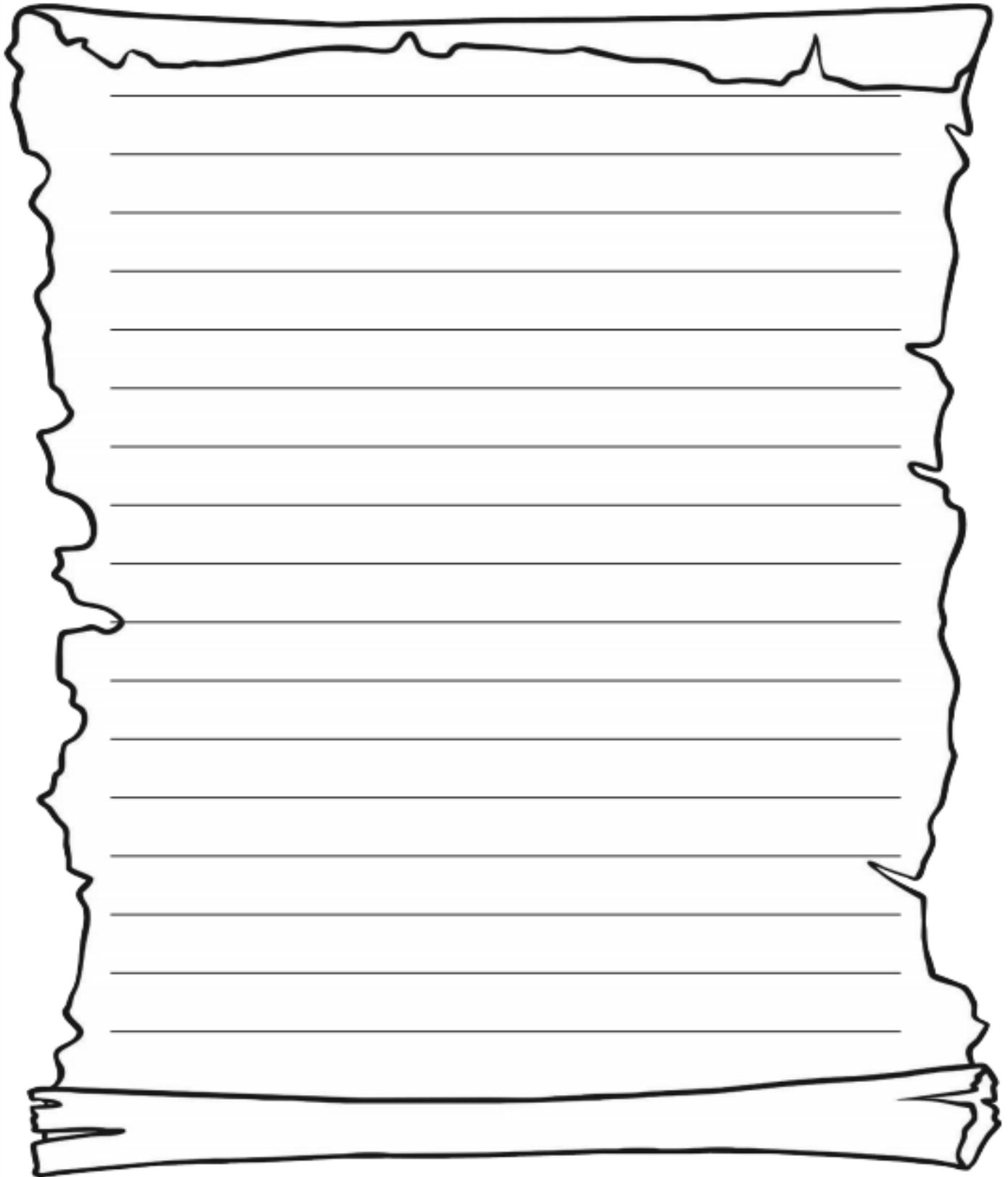
Theseus and the Minotaur: Comprehension Questions

1. What did King Minos do when he got bored?
2. What was the deal that King Minos and the king of Athens agreed on?
3. Find and copy the word that means the same as maze.
4. What did the minotaur enjoy eating?
5. Why was everyone in Athens crying?
6. Why was it strange that King Minos told the seven Athenian boys and seven Athenian girls to enjoy themselves in the palace?
7. Why did Princess Ariadne want to leave the island of Crete?
8. Name the two things that Princess Ariadne gave to Prince Theseus.
9. Explain why Prince Theseus was able to find his way back to the door of the maze after he killed the minotaur.
10. Explain why Prince Theseus smiled to himself at the end of the story.

Can you write two of your own questions about the text?

Tuesday February 2nd 2021

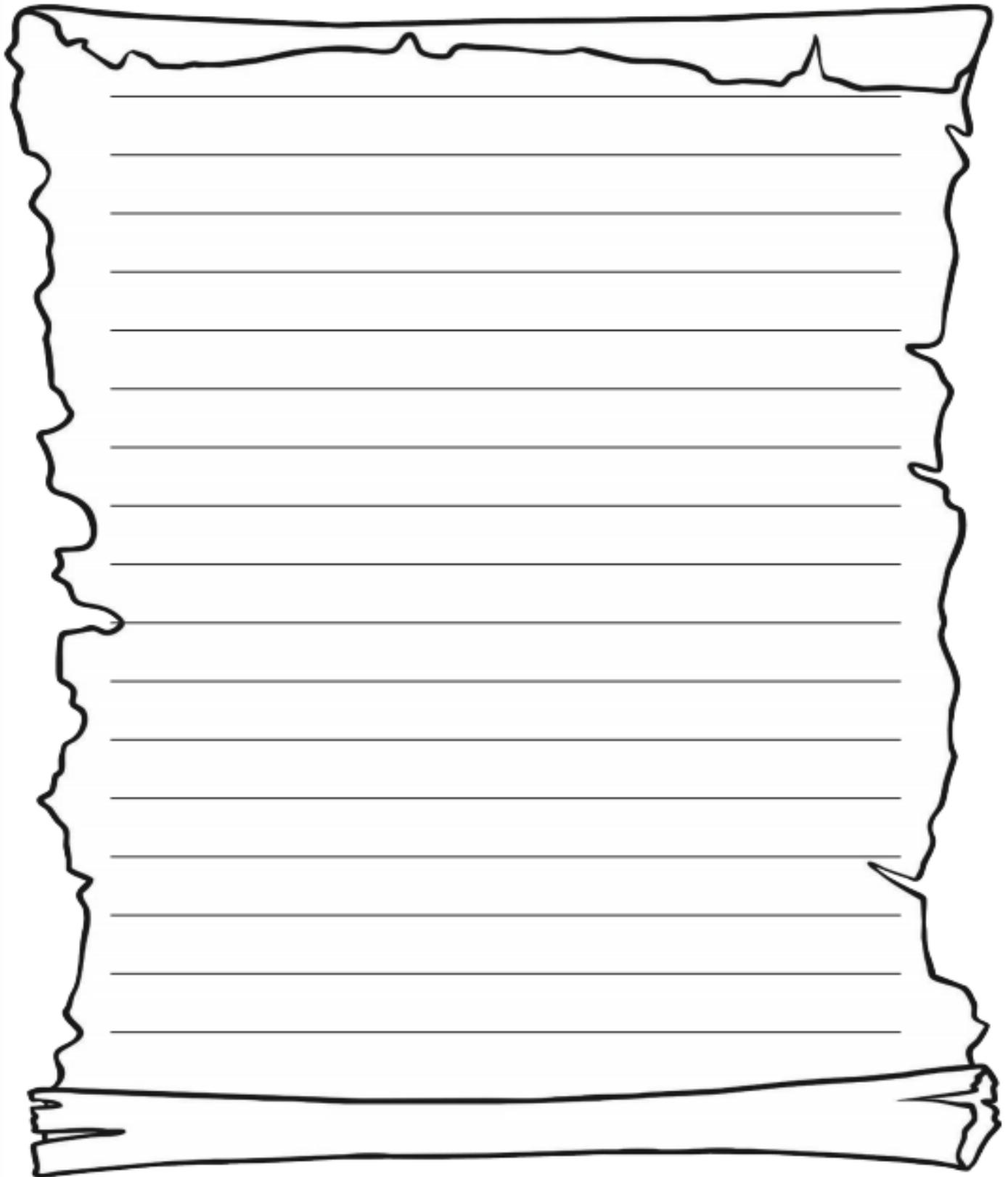
Task: Watch today's English video (see video link on Year 4 Home Learning timetable). Now write some diary entries for Theseus. Make a list of the different emotions you think Theseus is feeling at different times before you start.



A large, hand-drawn rectangular box with a jagged, torn-paper border. Inside the box are 18 horizontal lines for writing.

Wednesday 3rd February 2021

Task: Watch today's English video (see video link on Year 4 Home Learning timetable). Now write a letter from Theseus to Princess Ariadne to explain how grateful he is for the help she gave him but why he has now left her on the island of Naxos.



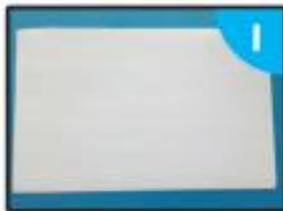
Thursday 4th February 2021

Task: Watch today's English video (see video link on Year 4 Home Learning timetable). Now make your own zig-zag book which tells the story of Theseus and the Minotaur. You can include captions and speech bubbles to add extra detail from the story.

Zigzag Book

You will need:

- a piece of A4 paper
- pens
- pencils
- crayons
- colouring pencils



Take a sheet of A4 paper and face it landscape on the table. This means the longest sides should be the top and bottom of the paper.



Next, fold the paper in half, bringing the top side to meet the bottom side.



Fold this in half, to bring the two shorter sides together.



Find the halfway point on one side of the folded paper and fold this backwards.



Turn the paper over and do the same again with the other side.

Friday 5th February 2021:

Task: Watch today's English video (see video link on Year 4 Home Learning timetable). Now look back at your own maze that you made for this week's DT task. Write a set of instructions which explains how to make a maze like yours. Could you make any suggestions about how they could improve on it? Use the example below as a reminder of how to set your instructions out.

How to make a model bull

These attractive, brightly coloured bulls are easy to make; you can even use items that might be in your recycling bin. The design is also very simple to adapt so that you can make a wide range of animals. Why not try making a recycled zoo?



You will need...

A red yoghurt pot
4 wooden lollipop sticks
Coloured foam sheets (2 colours)
A piece of black card
2 wobbly eyes
A small cardboard box (a stock cube box is a good size)
Scissors
Glue
Glitter pens



Method...

1. Firstly, ensure you have checked that you have the correct equipment.
2. Next, take the small cardboard box and glue the ends shut.
3. Then, glue the four lollipop sticks (like legs) onto each corner, carefully.
4. After that, cut the first foam sheet so that it fits over the box and hangs slightly below the edge. You may need an adult to help you make sure it is accurate. Glue it into position.
5. Next, select the second colour of foam and create a smaller blanket for your bull. Before you glue it into position, decorate it with your glitter pens.
6. Then, attach the yoghurt pot head into position on one end of the box.
7. Now cut two small triangular ears, and two circular nostrils, and glue onto the pot.
8. Finally, glue on the two wobbly eyes, and your bull is complete.

Try creating a pig by using a pink yoghurt pot and pink body, or why not make a lion by using a yellow yoghurt pot and creating a foam mane. The possibilities are endless!