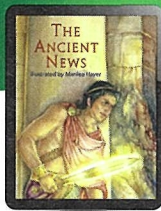


Lesson 18



Vocabulary in Context

1 **steadfast**

The Greek hero Odysseus is **steadfast**. He stays true to his goal of returning home.



2 **rash**

Icarus acts in a **rash**, or foolish, manner when he chooses to fly close to the sun. The heat melts his wings, and he falls.



Q LANGUAGE DETECTIVE

Talk About the Writer's Words

Work with a partner. Choose two of the blue Vocabulary words and use them in the same sentence. Then share your sentences with the class.

3 **bitterly**

The hero Heracles fights **bitterly**, in anger, with a fierce wild boar before he defeats it.



4 **unravels**

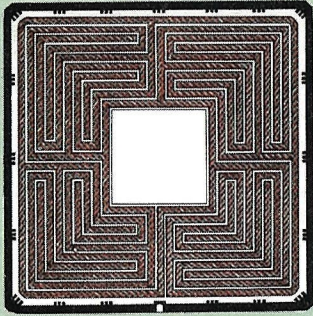
Each day, Penelope weaves a cloth while waiting for Odysseus to return. Each night, she **unravels** it again.



- ▶ Study each **Context Card**.
- ▶ Tell a story about two or more pictures, using Vocabulary words of your choice.

5 **labyrinth**

King Minos of Crete has a twisting **labyrinth** built. The maze is home for the Minotaur, a monster.



6 **fury**

The warrior Achilles fights bravely during the **fury**, or violence, of the Trojan War.



7 **embrace**

When Odysseus finally returns home, he hugs his wife, greeting her with a warm **embrace**.



8 **abandon**

A god in a myth might help a person in need, or might **abandon** that person to fate.



9 **massive**

During the Trojan War, Greek soldiers slip into Troy by hiding in a **massive** wooden horse.



10 **somber**

In a Greek myth, the **somber**, or gloomy, boatman, Charon, takes Psyche to the underworld.

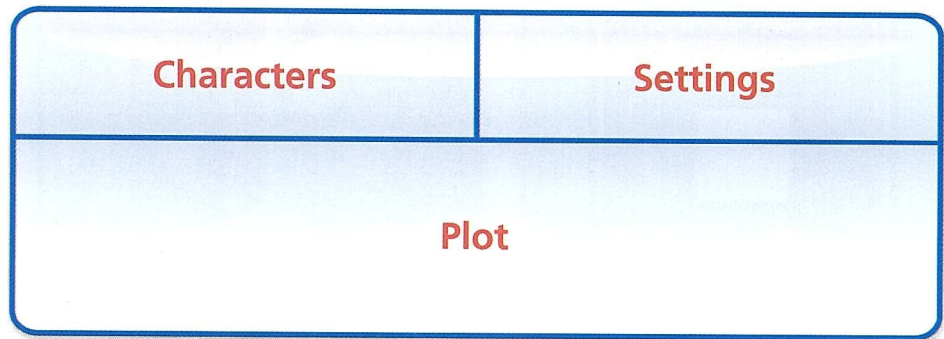




Read and Comprehend

✓ TARGET SKILL

Story Structure “The Hero and the Minotaur,” like most stories, contains one or more characters and settings, along with a plot that unfolds across a series of episodes. As you read, look for text evidence that shows how the characters respond and change as the plot unfolds. Use a graphic organizer like the one below to help you keep track of the story's overall **structure**.



✓ TARGET STRATEGY

Infer/Predict Use what you already know, along with text evidence, to help you **infer**, or figure out, what the author means or to **predict** what might happen in the story.

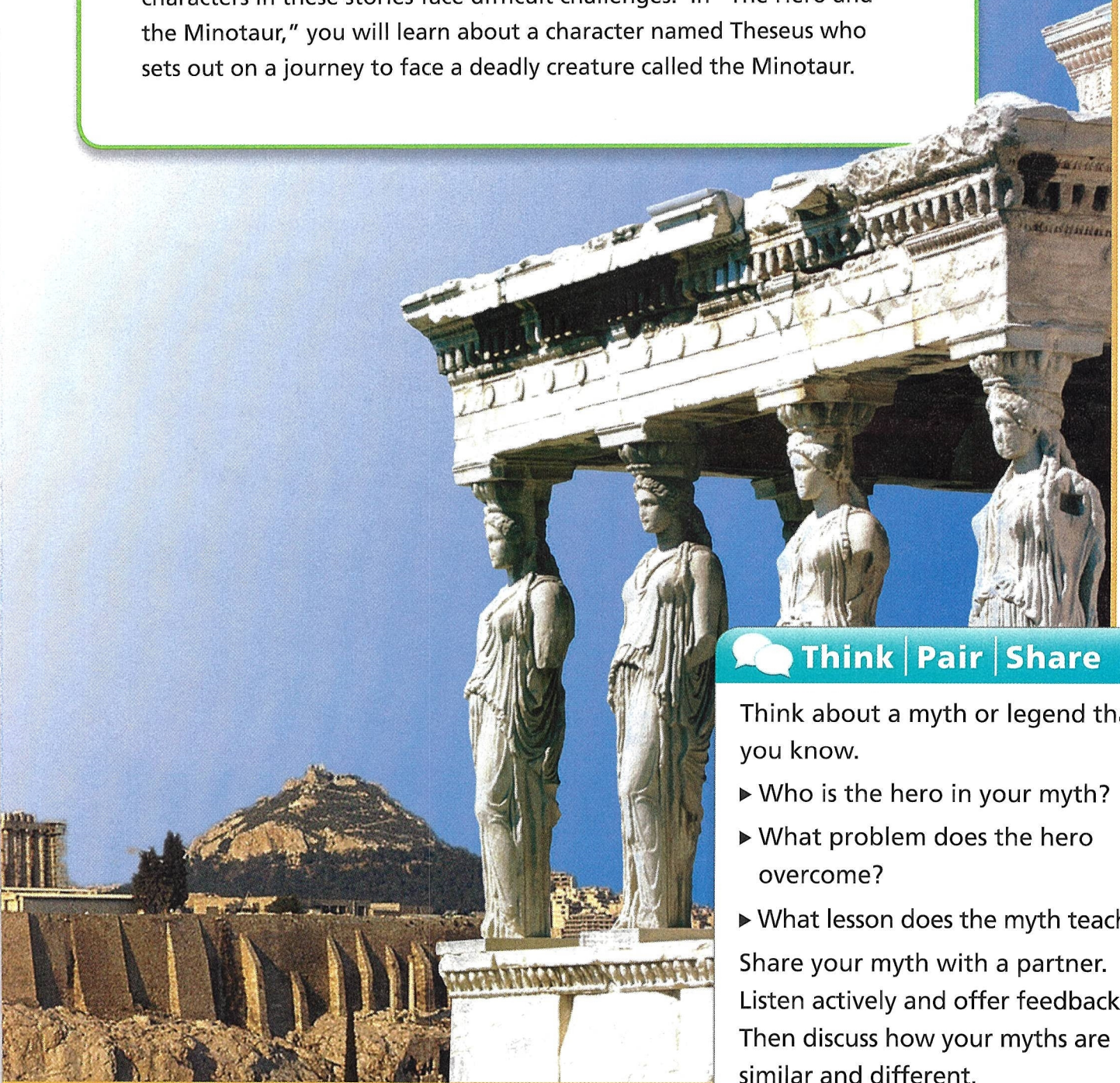


PREVIEW THE TOPIC

Myths

In ancient times, myths were created to explain the world and human experience. These made-up stories include humans, gods and goddesses, and other creatures with special powers.

The ancient Greeks created a collection of myths. Many of the characters in these stories face difficult challenges. In “The Hero and the Minotaur,” you will learn about a character named Theseus who sets out on a journey to face a deadly creature called the Minotaur.



Think | Pair | Share

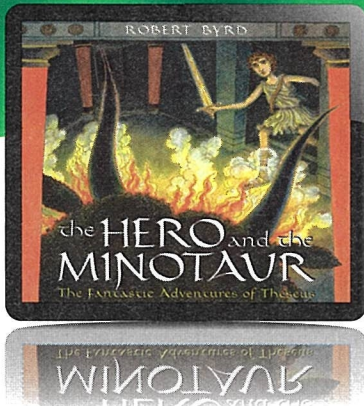
Think about a myth or legend that you know.

- ▶ Who is the hero in your myth?
- ▶ What problem does the hero overcome?
- ▶ What lesson does the myth teach?

Share your myth with a partner. Listen actively and offer feedback. Then discuss how your myths are similar and different.

Lesson 18

ANCHOR TEXT



✓ GENRE

A **myth** is a made-up story that tells what a group of people believed about the world.

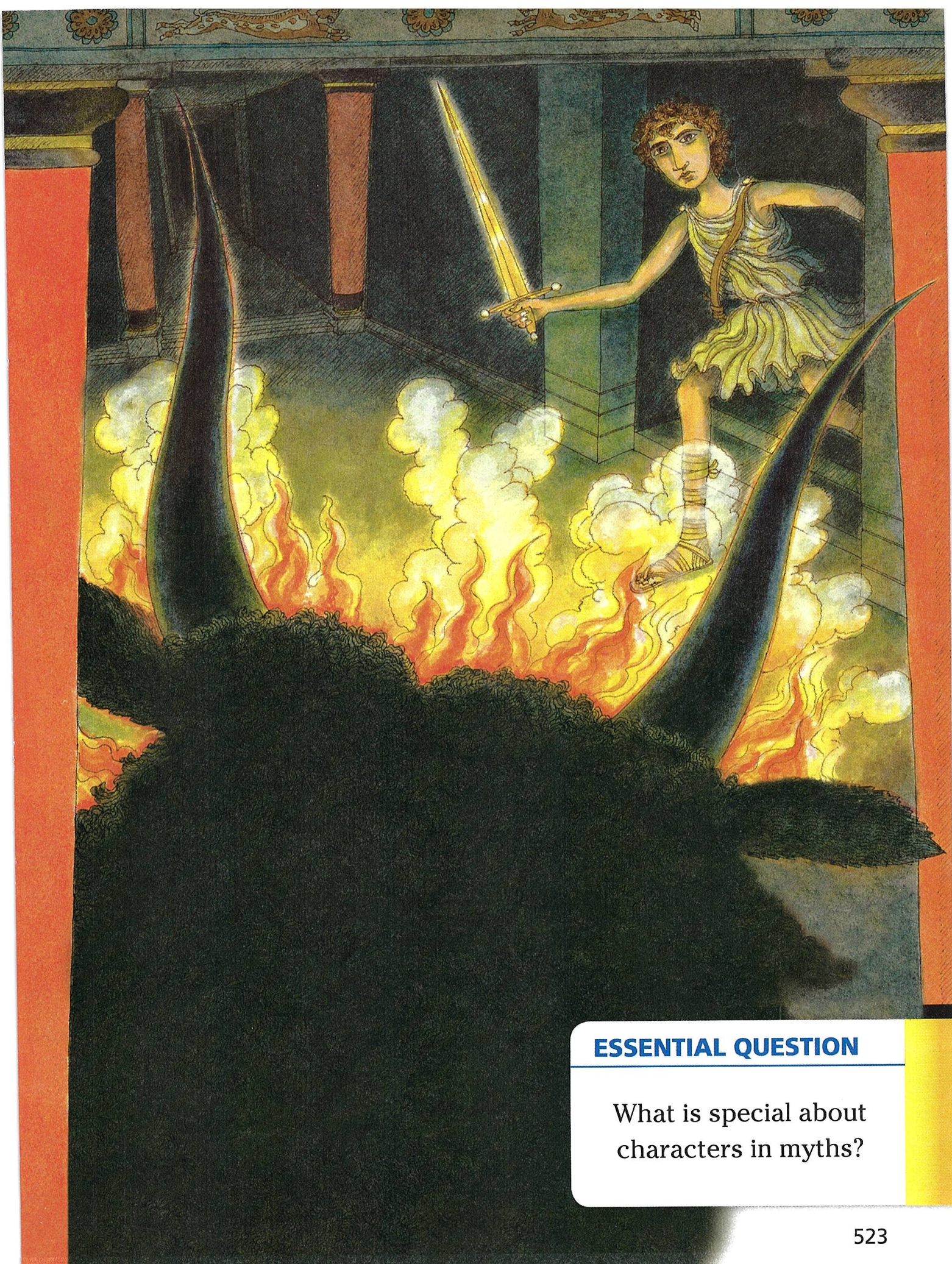
As you read, look for:

- ▶ characters with superhuman strength
- ▶ monster-like creatures
- ▶ unrealistic events

MEET THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Robert Byrd

Robert Byrd's work combines simple storytelling with highly detailed illustrations. In this story he uses pen-and-ink and watercolor to bring ancient Crete to life. He says, "The most important thing is to have the small world I create in a picture perfectly match the words of the story, so that even if it is a make-believe world in the eyes and minds of the readers, everything you see is real." Byrd studies objects from the settings of his books, whether Crete or Leonardo da Vinci's Italy (*Leonardo: Beautiful Dreamer*), to make his illustrations as accurate as possible.



ESSENTIAL QUESTION


What is special about characters in myths?

A Greek youth, Theseus, lifts a huge boulder, revealing a golden sword and sandals that were left for him by his father, King Aegeus. It is a sign that he is ready to join the king in Athens. On his journey, Theseus gains fame by killing three terrible giants who have been preying on travelers.

Word of Theseus' adventures soon reached Athens. As Theseus approached the city, crowds came out to greet him.

"Who performs these daring deeds?" Aegeus asked. "Let me meet the valiant champion." Aegeus decided to honor the stranger's bravery with a magnificent banquet in the Temple of Dolphins. When the prince stepped forward to present himself, the old king recognized the sandals and the golden sword, and he knew the youth before him was his son. He welcomed Theseus with a cry of wonder and a loving **embrace**. The sight of their happy reunion filled everyone with joy, and the people feasted, danced, and lit altars in every temple in Athens.





One morning shortly after the festivities ended, Theseus sensed a terrible sadness throughout the city. He also saw that his father's brow was creased with sorrow.

"Across the sea, a powerful king named Minos rules the island of Crete," Aegeus explained. "He keeps a beast called the Minotaur, a monster that is half-man, half-bull and feeds on human flesh. Many years ago, Minos' son visited our city and was killed here by a bull. In his rage, Minos made war on us and threatened to destroy Athens unless we sent him a tribute of seven young men and seven young women every year to sacrifice to the Minotaur. The time has come again to pay the tribute," he finished **bitterly**, "and though I am their king, I can do nothing to protect the fourteen who will draw unlucky lots and be sent to Crete, never to return."

Theseus, angered by King Minos' cruelty, replied, "Let me go with those to be sacrificed. I will slay the Minotaur and end the curse that hangs over our city." Aegeus pleaded with him to stay in Athens, but Theseus remained **steadfast** and prepared for the voyage to Crete.

The next morning, the old king was forced to bid his son farewell.

ANALYZE THE TEXT

Story Structure What problem do the people of Athens face? How does Theseus respond to this problem?



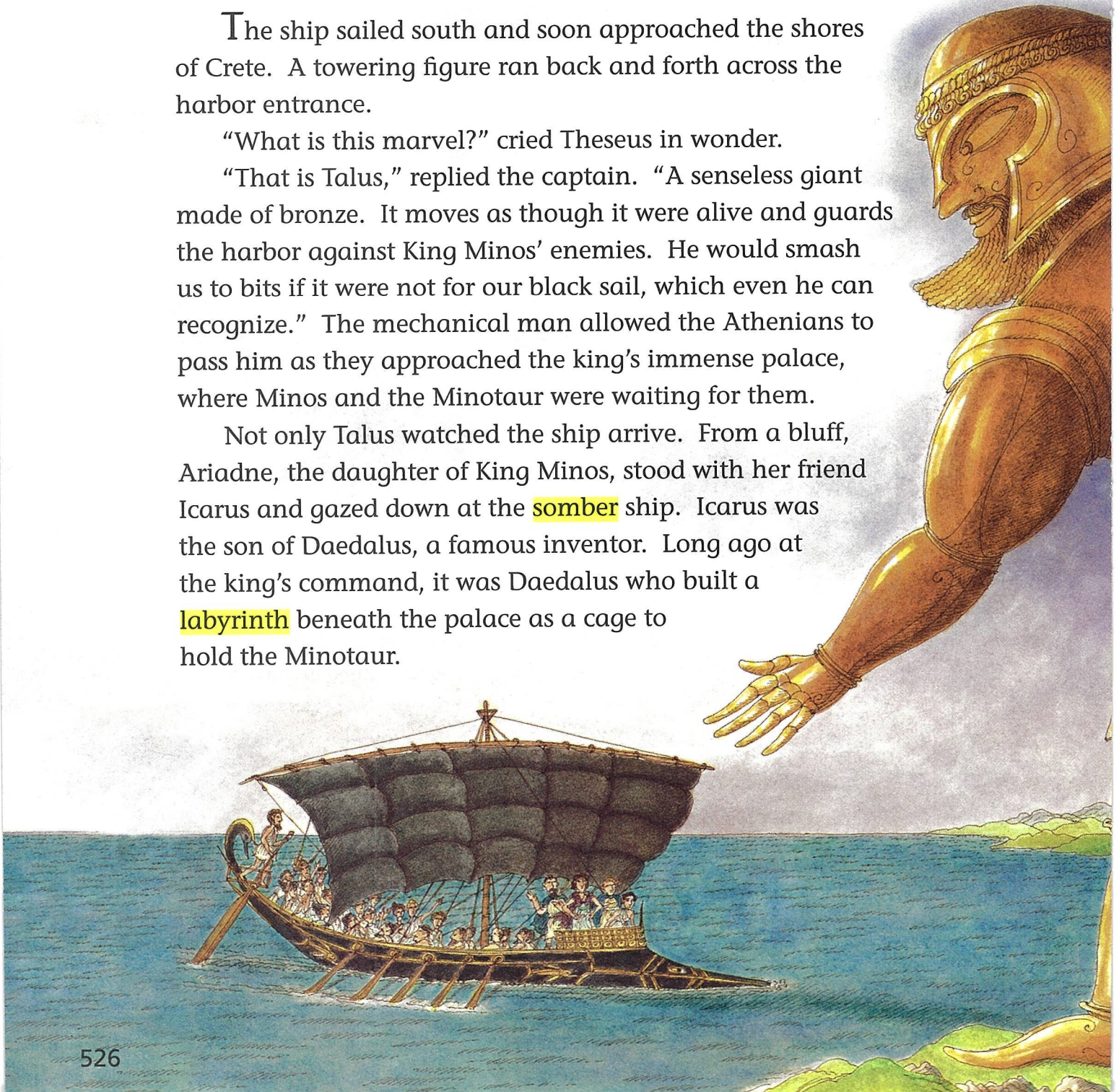
“In mourning for those to be sacrificed,” said Aegeus, “your ship has a black sail. If the gods grant you the power to kill the Minotaur, hoist this white sail on your return. I will see it far out on the horizon and rejoice that you are safe.” Theseus promised his father he would remember, then eagerly boarded the vessel. Many around him wept at the sad departure, but Theseus could think only of the thrilling adventure before him.

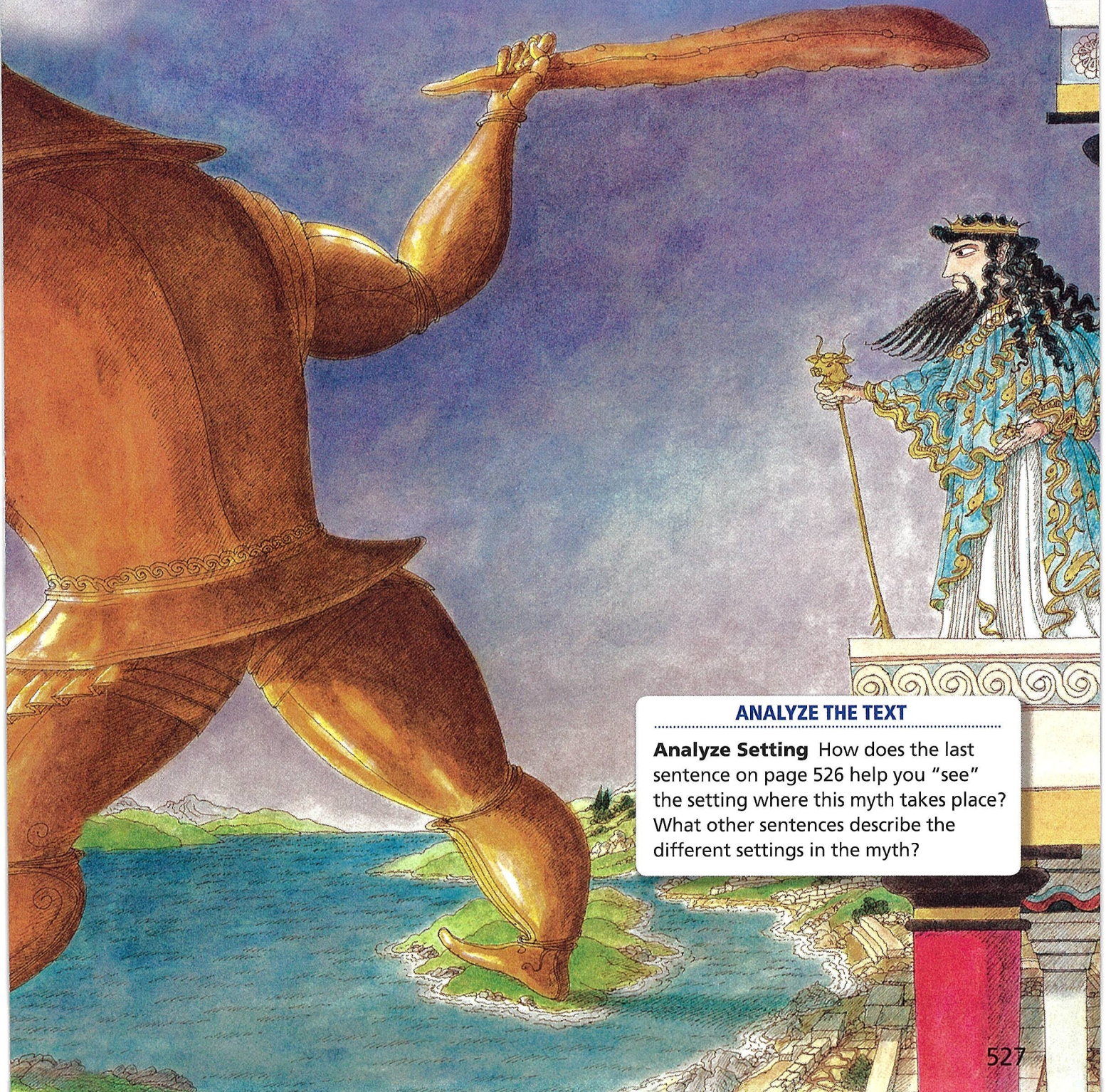
The ship sailed south and soon approached the shores of Crete. A towering figure ran back and forth across the harbor entrance.

“What is this marvel?” cried Theseus in wonder.

“That is Talus,” replied the captain. “A senseless giant made of bronze. It moves as though it were alive and guards the harbor against King Minos’ enemies. He would smash us to bits if it were not for our black sail, which even he can recognize.” The mechanical man allowed the Athenians to pass him as they approached the king’s immense palace, where Minos and the Minotaur were waiting for them.

Not only Talus watched the ship arrive. From a bluff, Ariadne, the daughter of King Minos, stood with her friend Icarus and gazed down at the **somber** ship. Icarus was the son of Daedalus, a famous inventor. Long ago at the king’s command, it was Daedalus who built a **labyrinth** beneath the palace as a cage to hold the Minotaur.





ANALYZE THE TEXT

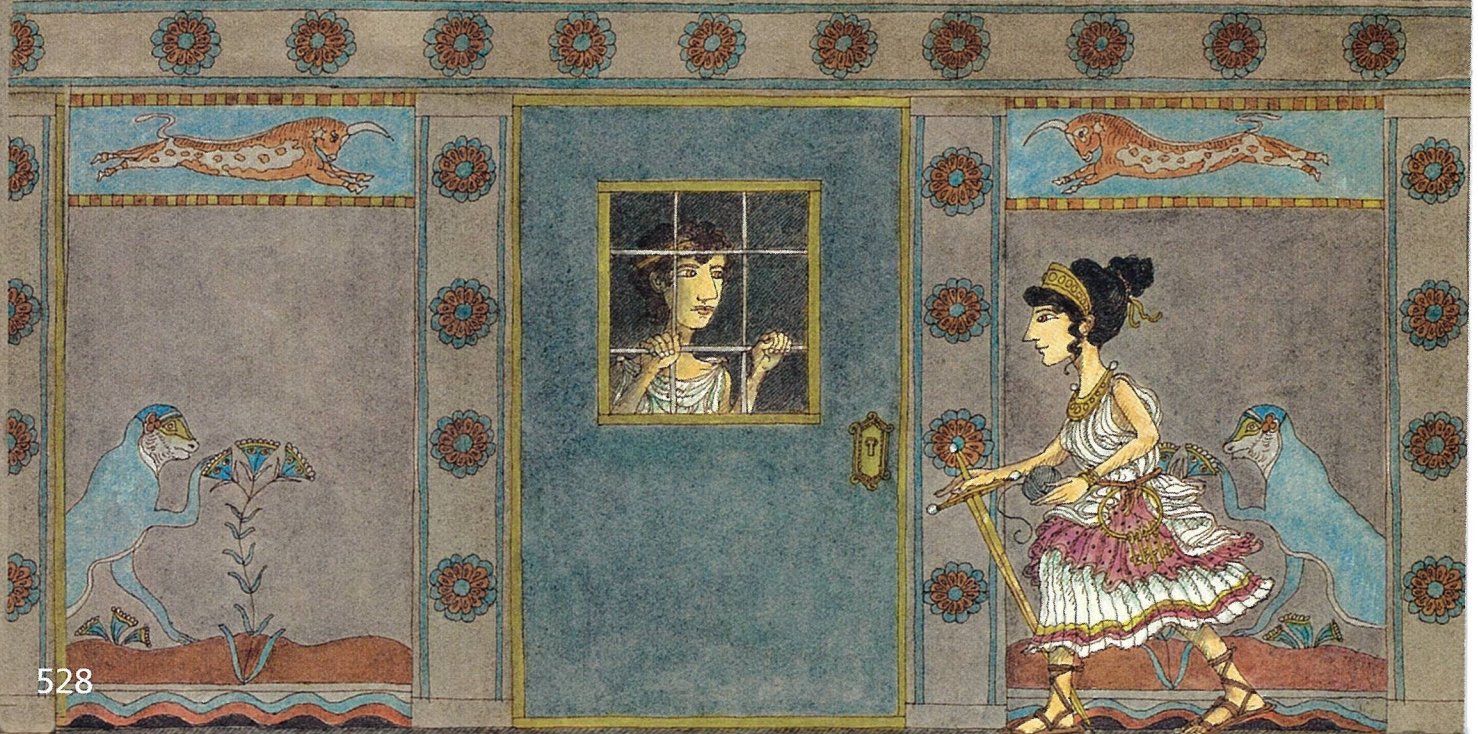
Analyze Setting How does the last sentence on page 526 help you “see” the setting where this myth takes place? What other sentences describe the different settings in the myth?

“Who is that who stands so tall and unafraid on the Athenian ship?” Ariadne asked. She was impressed by the stranger’s confidence.

“That must be Theseus, son of Aegeus,” Icarus replied. He was pleased to be able to show off his knowledge to the beautiful princess, but he wondered at her admiration of Theseus. “I have heard he freely chose to come here and face the Minotaur.”

Ariadne knew very well that no one had ever escaped the circling passages and corridors of her father’s enormous stone maze. Gazing at the prince, she made up her mind to save him from the king’s **rash** cruelty. “We must go to your father and ask for his advice,” she said to Icarus. “If anyone knows the secrets of the maze and can help us rescue Theseus, it is Daedalus.” The bold princess was right, for the brilliant inventor revealed to her a clever plan.

That night, while the others slept, Ariadne secretly entered the king’s chamber, gathered up the palace keys and Theseus’ sword, and crept down to the prisoner’s cell. “Theseus,” she whispered to him, “I am Ariadne. I have heard tales of your many good deeds. I can show you how to escape the labyrinth, but in return I ask that you help me to escape this island and my father, King Minos, who has grown wicked and pitiless.”



Theseus agreed to help her, and so Ariadne explained Daedalus' secret. "You must secure one end of this ball of thread to the entrance of the labyrinth," she said, "and keep hold of the rest of the ball as the string **unravels** behind you. If you defeat the Minotaur, the thread's path will lead you back out of the labyrinth." Praying that the gods would help him, she led Theseus to the maze and watched as he descended the heavy stone steps. Then she returned to the prison hold to free the other captives.

In the corridors of the labyrinth, the odor was foul, the light dim. Theseus gripped his father's sword in one hand, and in the other he held the unraveling thread. The passages twisted and turned, leading him first one way and then another, winding around and around. Down, down he went, searching for the beast hidden deep in the black abyss. Finally he came to an open space where the Minotaur lay sleeping on the rough stone floor. Its hot breath shook the cavern walls. The creature had the chest and arms of a powerful man, but the rest of its body had the shape of a bull, and two great horns grew out of its head.

Then the Minotaur opened one glowing red eye and fixed it on Theseus. Its snore died away, and the chamber grew deathly still.

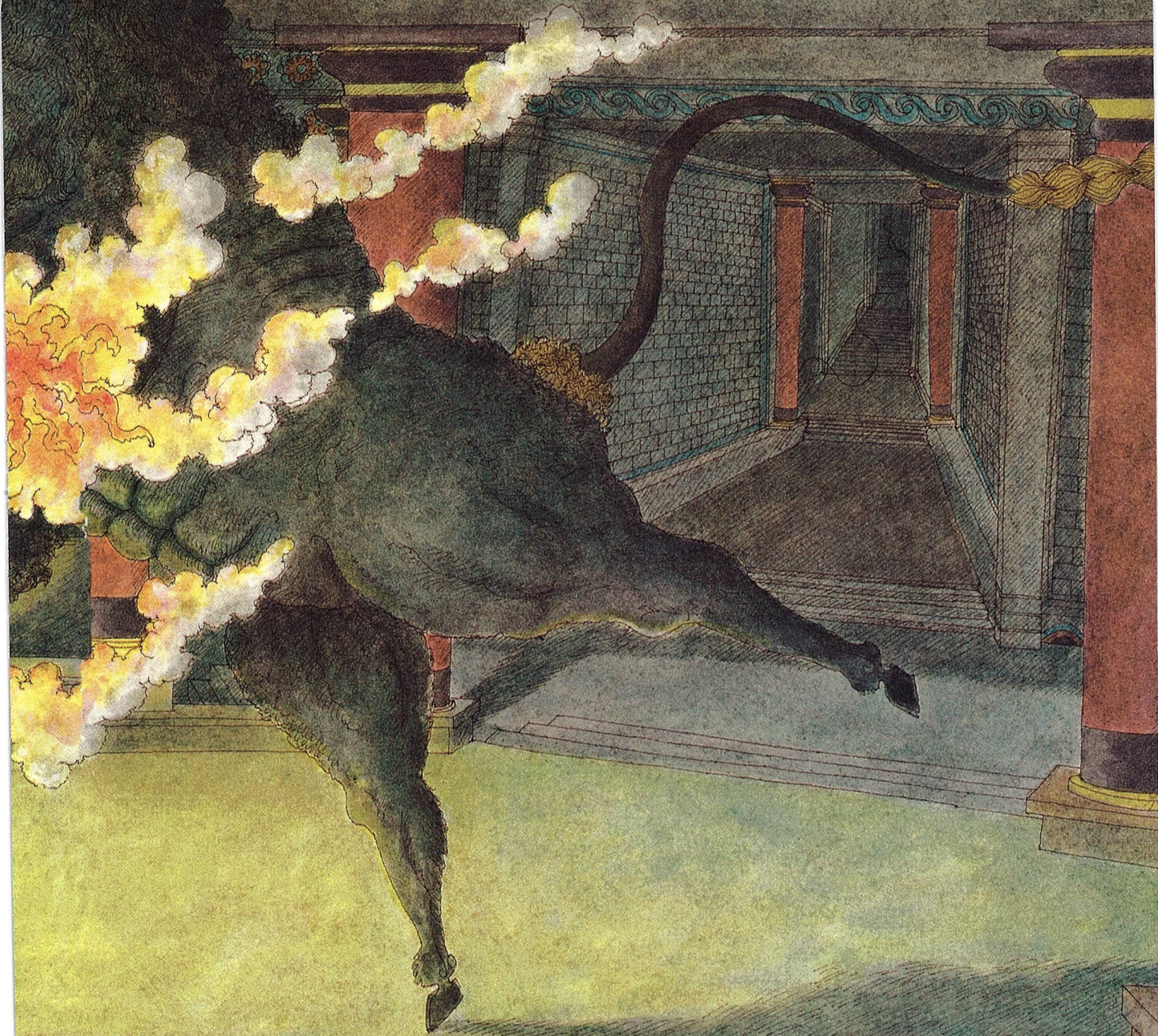
ANALYZE THE TEXT

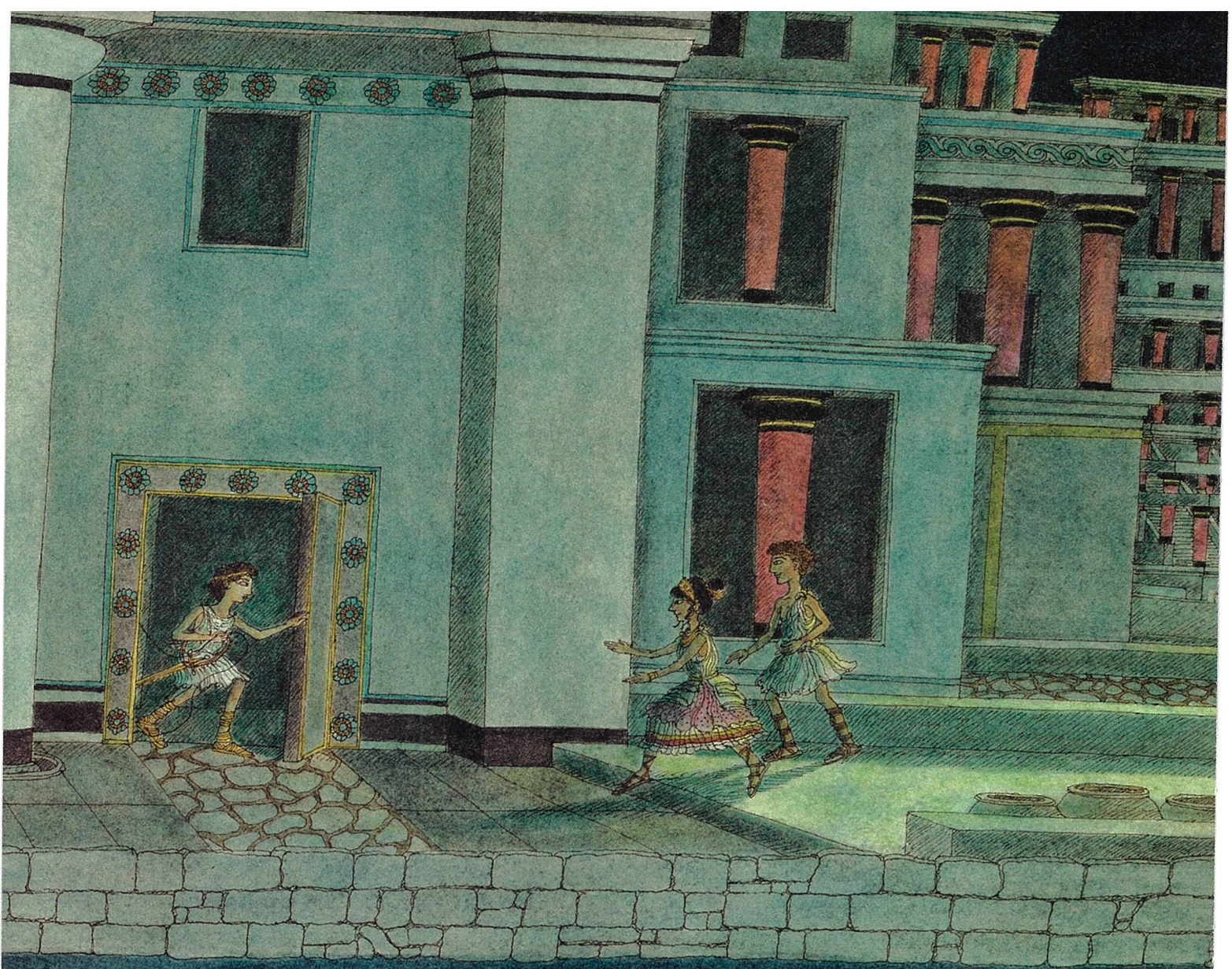
Author's Word Choice How does the author's choice of words create a dark mood in this scene? What words create this mood?





With a thunderous bellow, the Minotaur rose to its feet and charged. Theseus leapt aside, but the deadly horns grazed his tunic. The Minotaur spun around, furious, and charged again. As the beast descended upon him, Theseus steadied himself, raised his golden sword, and with a great heave drove the blade through the Minotaur's heart. The monster dropped to the cold stone floor, silenced forever.





Shaken by the **fury** of the struggle, Theseus had dropped the ball of thread. Anxious to escape the gloomy maze, he picked it up again and followed the thread out of the labyrinth and into the cool night air.

Ariadne and Icarus were waiting for him. The princess cried out with delight to see Theseus unharmed.

“Let us waste no time in leaving. The king is sure to come after us,” urged Ariadne. Theseus and the freed Athenians boarded the ship, but Icarus stepped back.

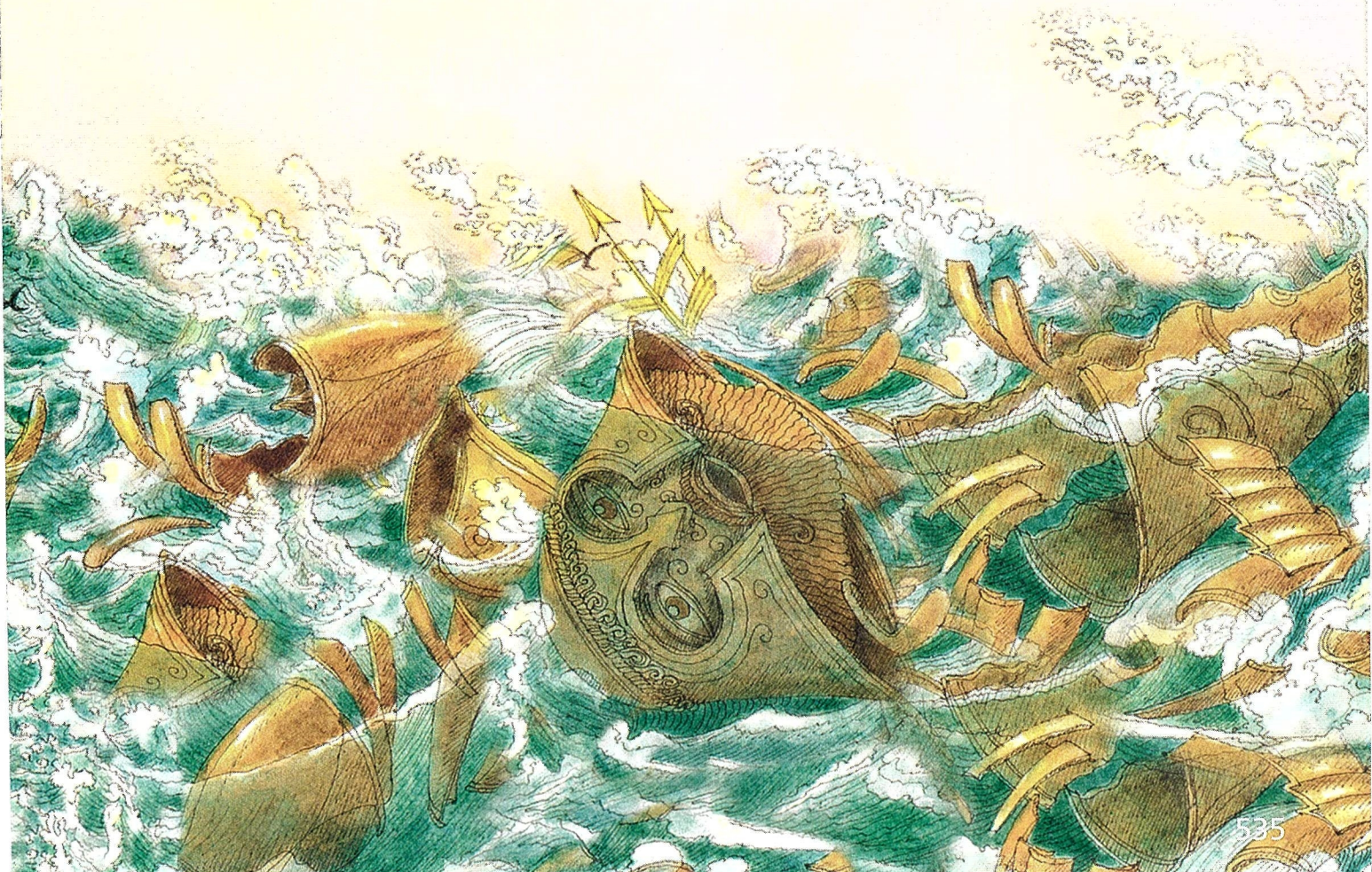


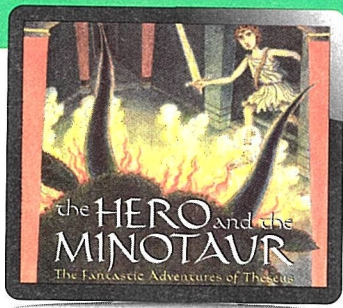
“Minos will blame Daedalus for your escape. I cannot **abandon** my father to the king’s wrath,” he explained, though it pained Icarus to see Theseus leave with Ariadne. “Daedalus and I will flee Minos together,” he vowed. “Then we will join you in Athens.”

Icarus watched from the bluffs as the ship set a course for Athens, but he was not the only one who followed the black sail in the breaking dawn. At the harbor entrance Talus spied the ship and raised his heavy club high to strike the boat. Theseus stepped forward with his sword, prepared to fight. But Poseidon, ever watchful, sent a **massive** wave smashing into the bronze giant. The Athenians watched in awe as the shining colossus, crushed into a heap of broken metal, sank to the bottom of the sea.



—◆—
On his voyage to Athens, Theseus forgets to change the sails of his ship from black to white. Believing that his son is dead, King Aegeus throws himself into the sea. Theseus becomes the next king of Athens and names the surrounding waters the Aegean Sea, in honor of his father.
—◆—





Dig Deeper

Use Clues to Analyze the Text

Use these pages to learn about Story Structure, Analyzing Setting, and Author's Word Choice. Then read "The Hero and the Minotaur" again to apply what you learned.

Story Structure

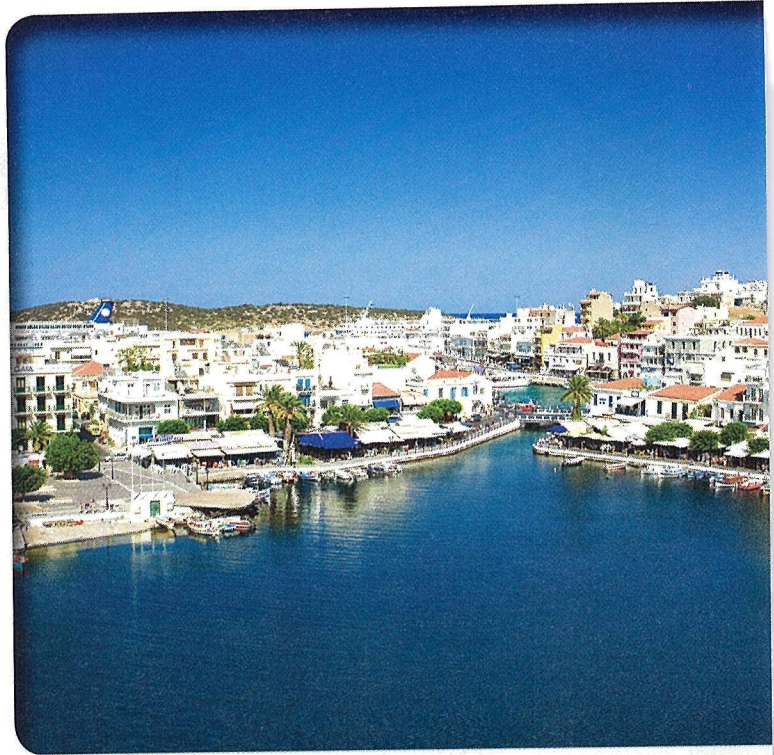
The myth "The Hero and the Minotaur" contains characters, settings, and plot, all of which work together to make up the **story structure**. The plot includes **episodes**, or scenes, that happen in a certain order. To understand a story's overall structure, use text evidence to trace how the characters respond to challenges as the plot unfolds. They must also identify the problem the main character faces and its solution.

Look back at page 531. What challenge or problem does Theseus face? How does he respond to this challenge?

Characters	Settings
Plot	

Analyze Setting

Setting is often important to the plot of a story. The **setting** is where and when the episodes of a story take place. The setting can change in a story, so readers must look for sentences that describe each setting, or use evidence in the story to figure it out. As you reread "The Hero and the Minotaur," look for sentences that describe or give clues to each setting. Think about the way in which the setting is described and how the description helps you picture the story events that take place.



Author's Word Choice

Authors use particular words to develop **mood**. Mood is the atmosphere, or feeling, that a writer creates in readers. Each scene in a story can create a mood. Robert Byrd, the author of "The Hero and the Minotaur," creates mood through the words he chooses. As you read a particular scene in the myth, ask yourself: How does this part of the story make me feel? What words make me feel this way?



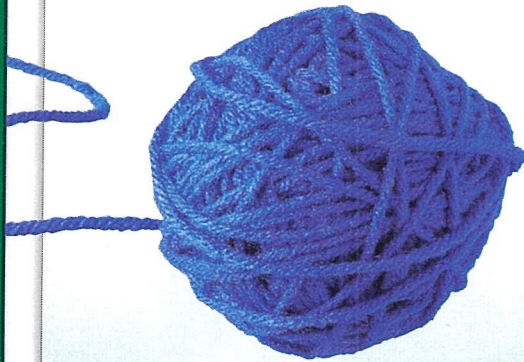
Your Turn

RETURN TO THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION



Review the selection with a partner to prepare to discuss this question:

What is special about characters in myths? Think about the characters in "The Hero and the Minotaur." Develop an answer by asking relevant questions and responding to your partner's questions.



Classroom Conversation

Continue your discussion of "The Hero and the Minotaur" by using text evidence to explain your answers to these questions:

- 1 Why do you think the myth includes the tragic event that occurs at the end of the story?
- 2 Whom else might you consider to be a hero in this myth? Why?
- 3 What do you think motivates Theseus to slay the Minotaur?

WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?

Determine Theme Work in small groups to summarize "The Hero and the Minotaur." Then determine the theme of the story, the message the author wants readers to understand and remember. Discuss the following: *Theseus decides to face the Minotaur. How does this event contribute to the theme? What other story events reveal the theme?* Use story details as text evidence to support your answers.



Performance Task

WRITE ABOUT READING



Response Myths often reveal the values of the people who created them. Based on what you read in “The Hero and the Minotaur,” what values do you think were important to the ancient Greeks? Do you think those values are important to people today? Write a paragraph to explain your argument. Use story details from the myth, along with inferences about the characters or events, as evidence to support your ideas.

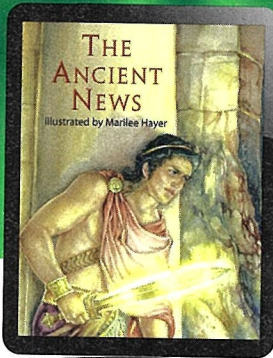


Writing Tip

Begin your response by clearly stating a claim. Then give reasons supported by evidence to develop your argument.

Lesson 18

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

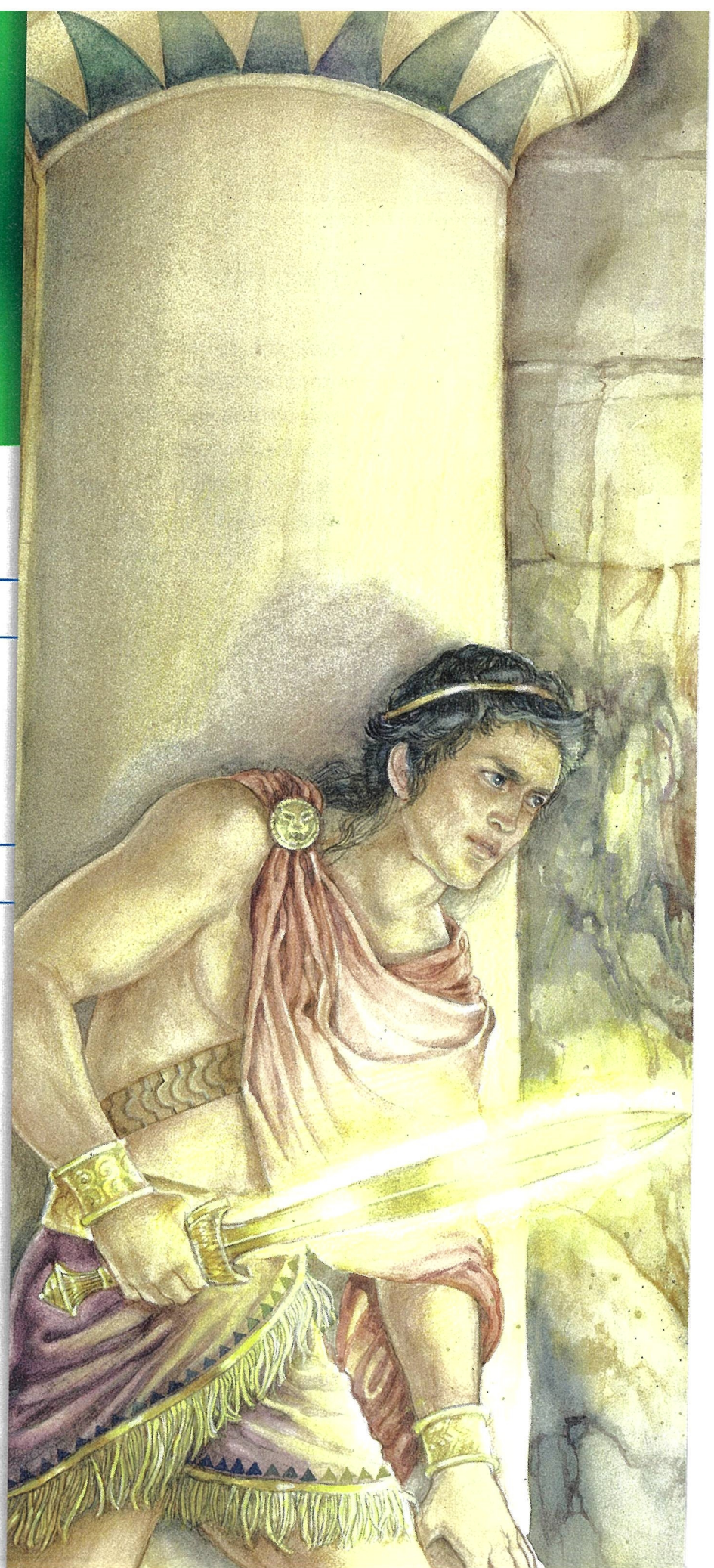


✓ GENRE

A **newspaper article** provides information about a current event. It usually answers the questions *Who? What? When? Where? Why?*

✓ TEXT FOCUS

Facts and details about a specific event are provided in newspaper articles. Facts can be proved true. Details support the facts in the article.





The Cretan News

Minotaur Slain

The Minotaur is dead. According to reports, the fearsome half-man, half-bull was surprised in its sleep yesterday by Theseus, son of King Aegeus. After a brief struggle, Theseus was able to use a golden sword to end the Minotaur's life. This action will likely end the tradition of sending Athenian youth into the beast's lair. Cretans will recall that a son of King Minos was killed by an Athenian bull. This prompted the king's rage and his demand for revenge on Athens.

After the slaying, Theseus and the young men and women in his company escaped from the king's labyrinth. How they did this remains unclear as the maze was thought to

be inescapable. The group set sail back to Athens along with a Cretan accomplice. Witnesses say this accomplice was Ariadne, a daughter of King Minos.

Theseus was able to use a golden sword...

In a related incident, Talus, the bronze guardian of the harbor entrance, was struck and destroyed by a massive wave. Talus was in the act of trying to stop the Athenian craft when the wave struck. The black-sailed craft, with all aboard, was able to navigate around Talus and complete its escape.

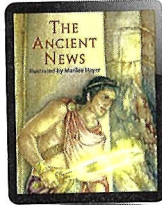
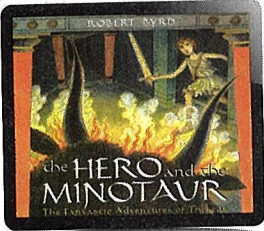
THE ATHENIAN NEWS

King Aegeus Drowns

King Aegeus, the long-reigning ruler of Athens, is dead. The king is reported to have plunged into the sea in despair at the sight of a black-sailed craft entering Athens's harbor today. Sources close to the king say Aegeus believed that his beloved son Theseus had been killed while on a quest to destroy the Minotaur of Crete. A distraught Prince Theseus, the heir to the Athenian throne, could not be reached for comment.



Compare Texts



TEXT TO TEXT

Compare Text Forms “The Hero and the Minotaur” and “The Ancient News” present the same events. Use the following questions to compare and contrast the texts: *What approach do the newspaper articles use to tell the story of Theseus and the Minotaur? How is this different from the author’s approach in “The Hero and the Minotaur”?* Write your answers. Use evidence from the texts to support your ideas.



TEXT TO SELF

Write to Reflect Theseus could not have escaped the labyrinth without the help of Ariadne and Icarus. Think of a time when friends helped you face a challenge or when you helped someone else do so. Write a paragraph describing the experience.



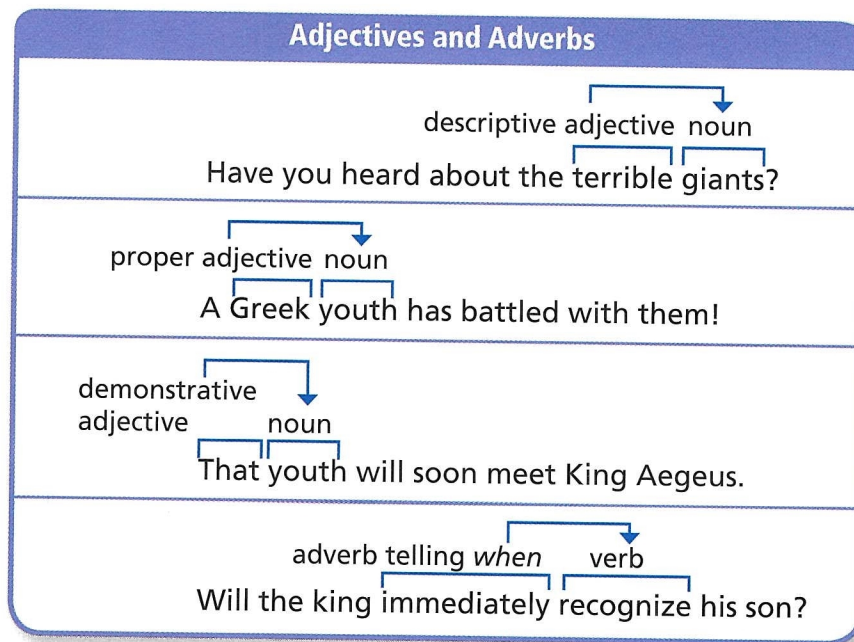
TEXT TO WORLD

Use Patterns in Nature The labyrinth in “The Hero and the Minotaur” can be seen as a pattern, a form of visual math. Use patterns in nature, such as those in shells or leaves, to design a maze. Have a partner find the route out of your maze.



Grammar

What Are Adjectives and Adverbs? An **adjective** gives information about a noun. Some adjectives are **descriptive adjectives** that tell *what kind*. One type of descriptive adjective, a **proper adjective**, is formed from a proper noun and is capitalized. Adjectives such as *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those* tell *which one* and are called **demonstrative adjectives**. An **adverb** is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.



Adverbs that modify verbs answer these questions: *How? Where? When?*

Try This!

Read the sentences below. List the adjectives and adverbs on another sheet of paper. Label each adjective as descriptive, proper, or demonstrative, and write the noun it modifies. Then write the verb each adverb modifies.

- 1 Theseus freely chose a difficult task.
- 2 He stood on the deck of the Athenian ship.
- 3 A fearsome beast lived in a maze on Crete.
- 4 This beast leapt savagely at Theseus.

When you write, use precise adjectives and adverbs to create clear and vivid pictures for your readers. Also, be careful not to use the same adjectives or adverbs over and over.

Less Precise Adjective and Adverb

Greek myths tell good stories about characters who behave badly.

More Precise Adjective and Adverb



Greek myths tell **cautionary** stories about characters who behave **foolishly**.

Connect Grammar to Writing

As you revise your cause-effect essay, look for opportunities to use precise adjectives and adverbs. Use those words to create clear pictures for your readers.

Informative Writing

✓ **Organization** In a **cause-effect essay**, writers use cause-and-effect relationships to explain a sequence of events. A cause can have more than one effect, and an effect can be the cause of another effect. As you revise your cause-effect essay, be sure you have used details from the text to develop the topic. Check that transition words and phrases such as *because*, *as a result*, *since*, and *so* clearly link ideas.

Michael explained the chain of events that led to Theseus' journey to Crete. Then he added transition words and phrases to make the relationship between the causes and effects clear.

Writing Checklist

✓ Organization

Are the events in a logical order?

✓ Purpose

Did I show relationships between causes and effects?

✓ Evidence

Did I develop the topic with details from the text?

✓ Elaboration

Did I use precise words and details from the text?

✓ Conventions

Did I use vivid adjectives and adverbs?
Did I use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation?

Revised Draft

The death of King Minos' son caused a ^{tragic} chain
of events. A bull in Athens had killed Minos'
son, ^{so} Minos declared war on Athens. His rage
caused him to demand a terrible price: a
yearly human sacrifice to the ^{beastly} Minotaur.
^{As a result, seven} ~~Seven~~ young men and seven young women
traveled from Athens to Crete every year
to die.

One Bad Thing Leads to Another

by Michael Wu

“The Hero and the Minotaur” tells of a young Greek hero named Theseus. The story begins as King Aegeus tells his son Theseus about King Minos, the death of King Minos’ son, and the punishment that Minos inflicted on Athens.

The death of King Minos’ son caused a tragic chain of events. A bull in Athens had killed Minos’ son, so Minos declared war on Athens. His rage caused him to demand a terrible price: a yearly human sacrifice to the beastly Minotaur. As a result, seven young men and seven young women traveled from Athens to Crete every year to die.

When Theseus learned of the cruel practice, he was horrified and angry. Therefore, he vowed to his father, King Aegeus, that he would slay the Minotaur. Aegeus did not want him to go. Even though Aegeus begged him to stay, Theseus remained determined to end the senseless killings.

The next day, Theseus said goodbye to his father. Then he set out to kill the Minotaur so that he could end the curse forever.

Reading as a Writer

What transition words and phrases did Michael add to make the cause-and-effect relationships clearer? What transition words and phrases can you add to strengthen your essay?

In my final paper, I added transition words and phrases to connect ideas and sentences. I also added vivid adjectives to describe characters and events.

