

Monday - What to do today

1. Story time

Read the [Story Icarus](#), by Ruth Merritts and Anne Holm Petersen. If you have read this before, enjoy reading it again and, this time, think about different things - today we are exploring the features of myth.

2. Responding to a story

Read and think carefully about the discussion points on the activity sheet below called [Exploring Icarus](#).

- Record your responses on [The Story of Icarus](#).
- When you have done this, check the answers below to see if you had similar ideas. These answers are not necessarily right - they are just to make you think. Yours might well be better!

3. Describe the monster

On [The Minotaur](#), draw your version of the monster and write a paragraph describing him or add interesting descriptions around your drawing.

Exploring *Icarus*

1. This is an ancient myth. The characters often represent or stand for qualities in people or particular types of person. They say that Daedalus represents 'cleverness' or 'genius'. What do you think Icarus represents? What does Minos represent?



2. How might the story have been different? How else might Daedalus and Icarus have tried to escape. Can you think of another way?

3. Myths explore things that are really difficult for people to deal with. They highlight issues that human beings find hard. What difficult issues do you think are being explored in this story?

Answers to Exploring Icarus Questions

1. This is an ancient myth. The characters often represent or stand for qualities in people or particular types of person. They say that Daedalus represents 'cleverness' or 'genius'. What do you think Icarus represents? What does Minos represent?

Icarus seems to be a victim - it is not really his fault that he falls into the sea. He is a child and he doesn't really listen to what his father tells him. So perhaps he stands for innocent children, or perhaps he stands for children who don't listen to what the grown-ups are saying. Minos is a cruel and evil man. He stands for rulers who are arrogant, proud and cruel.

2. How might the story have been different? How else might Daedalus and Icarus have tried to escape. Can you think of another way?

The story could have ended more happily if Icarus had maybe had a bad shock but not died. Perhaps he could have fallen into the sea and been rescued by a ship? They could have escaped by making parachutes that could have carried them down from the tower, and then they could have disguised themselves and run away? Or perhaps they could have disguised themselves as the guards who brought in the food?

Myths explore things that are really difficult for people to deal with. They highlight issues that human beings find hard. What difficult issues do you think are being explored in this story?

The story might be making us think about how it is possible for a person to be arrogant and to think they can do anything they want to. Daedalus was asking the impossible of Icarus who was only a child. Also, it might be warning us that it is dangerous to go too close to the sun - we should treat the sun and the stars with respect. Maybe it is telling us that there should be some limits to what we do and ask other people to do. We should not over-reach ourselves.

My drawing of the Minotaur

