

What to do today

IMPORTANT! Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and with any weblinks or use of the Internet required.

1. Story time

Re-read the story of *Icarus*, either the text version or the story book, whichever you preferred.

- Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVkwWoLNZs&t=184s>. Watch the animated version of the story.
- Think carefully and talk to someone about the differences between this and the other two versions you have read.

2. Comparing three versions of the same story

- Read *Different Versions of Greek Myths* and then use *Differences* to compare the versions of *Icarus* that you have read and listened to.

3. Reading and writing diaries

Look at *Daedalus's Diary*.

- Read the diary entry and the instructions that go with it.
- On the *Diary Paper*, write Icarus's diary entry, detailing the boy's experiences and saying how much he regrets not listening to his Dad.

Now try this Fun-Time Extra

- Use *A time when I didn't listen* to write about a time you didn't listen to the person looking after you, and there was nearly a disaster and you wished you had. Ask Mum, Dad or another carer to help you remember a time if you can't think of one! They'll certainly be able to help...

Icarus - text version

The myth of Daedalus and Icarus tells the story of a father and a son who used wings to escape from the island of Crete. Icarus has become better-known as the flyer who fell from the sky when the wax that joined his wings was melted by the heat of the sun. The tragic fall of Icarus begins with his father, in fact, in a way, Icarus suffered and paid for Daedalus deeds.



Daedalus used to work as an artisan in Athens, together with a skillful apprentice named Talus. In a moment of rage and jealousy, Daedalus pushed Talus off the rock of the Acropolis but was unable to kill him. Goddess Athena turned the apprentice into a bird and Daedalus, charged with murder, was forced to seek refuge on Crete, the island where dwelt the minotaur, a terrible beast said to be half man and half bull.

Once on the island of Crete, Daedalus started a new life working in the palace of King Minos. Under King Minos's orders, Daedalus was asked to build a space able to contain the Minotaur. But instead of coming up with a prison cell, Daedalus decided that a complex labyrinth would be the best place to hide the monster. It was such a perfect construction that those entering the maze were never able to leave.

However, the existence of a Minotaur was secret to most of the inhabitants of the island and wanting the monster to remain so, the king locked up Daedalus and his family so that the secret would never be revealed.

Cunningly, Daedalus elaborated an idea to escape that did not require going over land or sea. The only possible way that they could leave the island would have been to be able to fly. Thus, Daedalus started gathering feathers from birds which he later transformed into wings stuck together with wax. One pair of wings was going to be for him and the other for Icarus, his son.



When the moment to escape arrived, Daedalus warned Icarus not to fly too close to the sun, but he did not listen to his father and fell into the sea when, after getting too close to the sun, the wax in his wings melted and fell apart.



Graffiti on a wall on the island of Icarus

Different Versions of Greek Myths



Greek myths have been told and retold many times over the centuries. With each telling, some of the details of the story change so that, over time, you end up with lots of slightly different versions of the same story.

What differences did you notice between the Icarus story book version, the text version you read and the animation you watched?

On **Differences**, write six or seven full sentences about all the things you spotted that are different in each one. Try using these conjunctions below to help you write your comparisons. Write a paragraph to compare all three versions.

but yet while whereas

Example

In the story book version, Daedalus and Icarus are locked in a tower but in the animation, they are marooned on the island. In the text version, we are told that Daedalus and Icarus were locked up, yet we are not told where.

Differences

A large rectangular area with a decorative border of colorful puzzle pieces. The interior is divided into 12 horizontal rows by thin grey lines, providing space for writing.

Daedalus's Diary



Dear Diary,

It has been an awful day! Although I am so glad to be free of that dreadful King Minos and to finally be away from the island of Crete, the labyrinth and the Minotaur, I just can't bear to think about what might have happened to my dear, dear son, Icarus.

It all started so well, with the wings that I had designed working perfectly and letting us flap our way gently to freedom. I had spoken very seriously to Icarus about not letting himself get too close to either the sea or the sun. For a while at least, he did just as I had asked him. But then his adventurous spirit got the better of him and he started flying higher and higher, circling up towards the fiery rays of the midday sun. The wax on his wings melted and the feathers fell away, leaving him to tumble headlong into the sea.

If only I had been firmer with him. I should have made him fly right next to me so that I could keep an eye on him. He always was a headstrong and impetuous child – and now I have lost him. What shall I do?

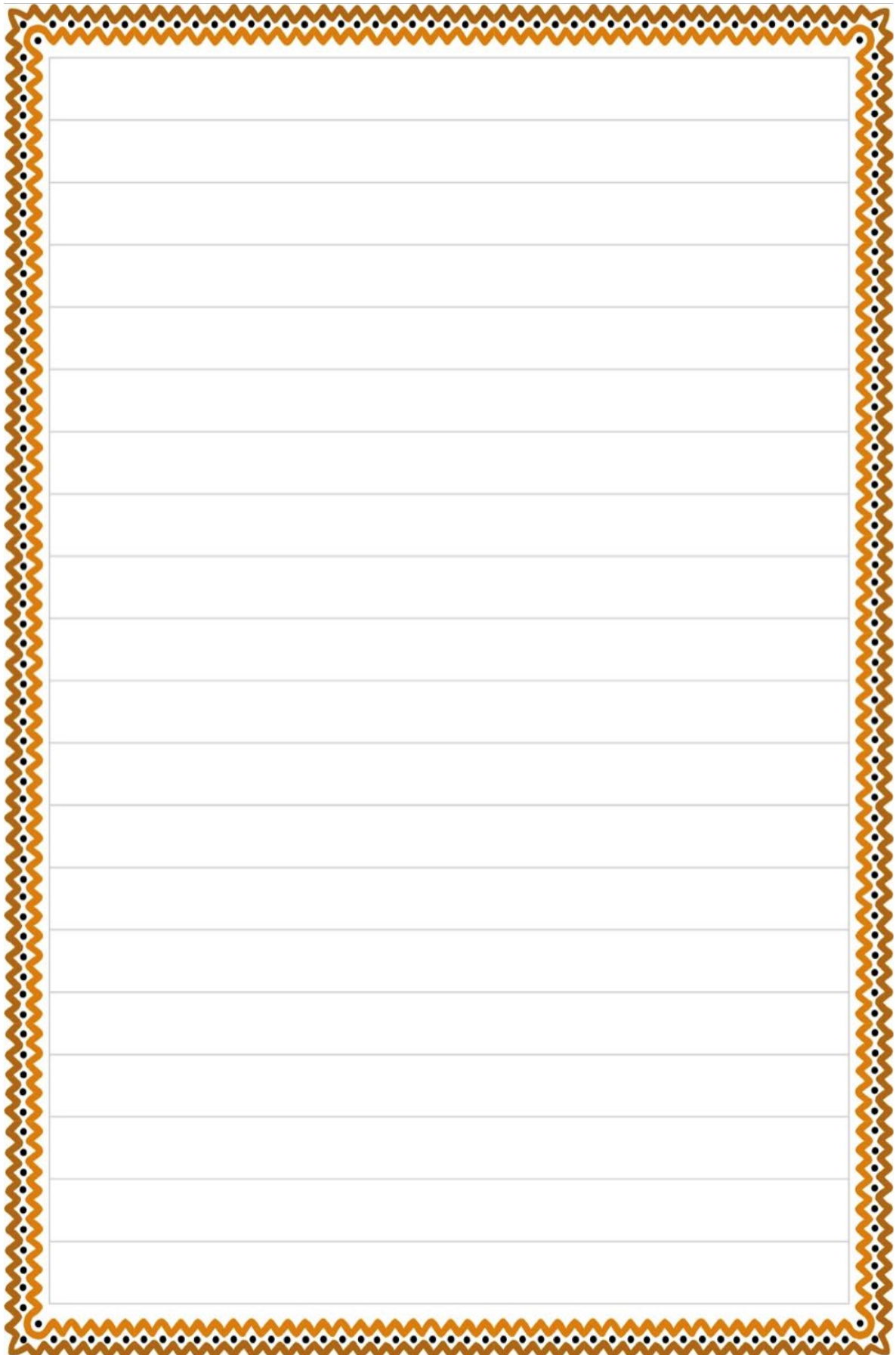
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But wait – Icarus is safe! He was picked up from the sea by a fishing boat and taken home to Athens.

On the lined paper, write Icarus's diary entry, explaining what happened from his point of view and how he feels about having not listened to his father's advice.

What does Icarus decide he will do the next morning?

Diary



A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, intended for writing in a diary. The area is framed by a decorative border consisting of a repeating orange and black zigzag pattern.

A time when I didn't listen

A large rectangular writing area with a decorative border of colorful puzzle pieces. The border consists of interlocking puzzle pieces in shades of blue, yellow, red, and grey. The writing area is divided into 12 horizontal lines by thin grey lines.