

Reading for Meaning

**Welcome to the Reading for
Meaning programme.**

**We hope that you will have fun
reading stories and doing activities
with learners.**

**Remember, nurturing and
supporting a child is important
for their physical, emotional and
academic development.**



**Part of the Zero Dropout campaign working towards
halving the rate of school dropout by 2030.**

Reading
for Meaning

The legend of Icarus

STORY GUIDE

STORY
11

EACH READER NEEDS...

The story

Pens or pencils

Paper

Crayons

Recycled material
as props

The Story



INTRODUCE THE STORY

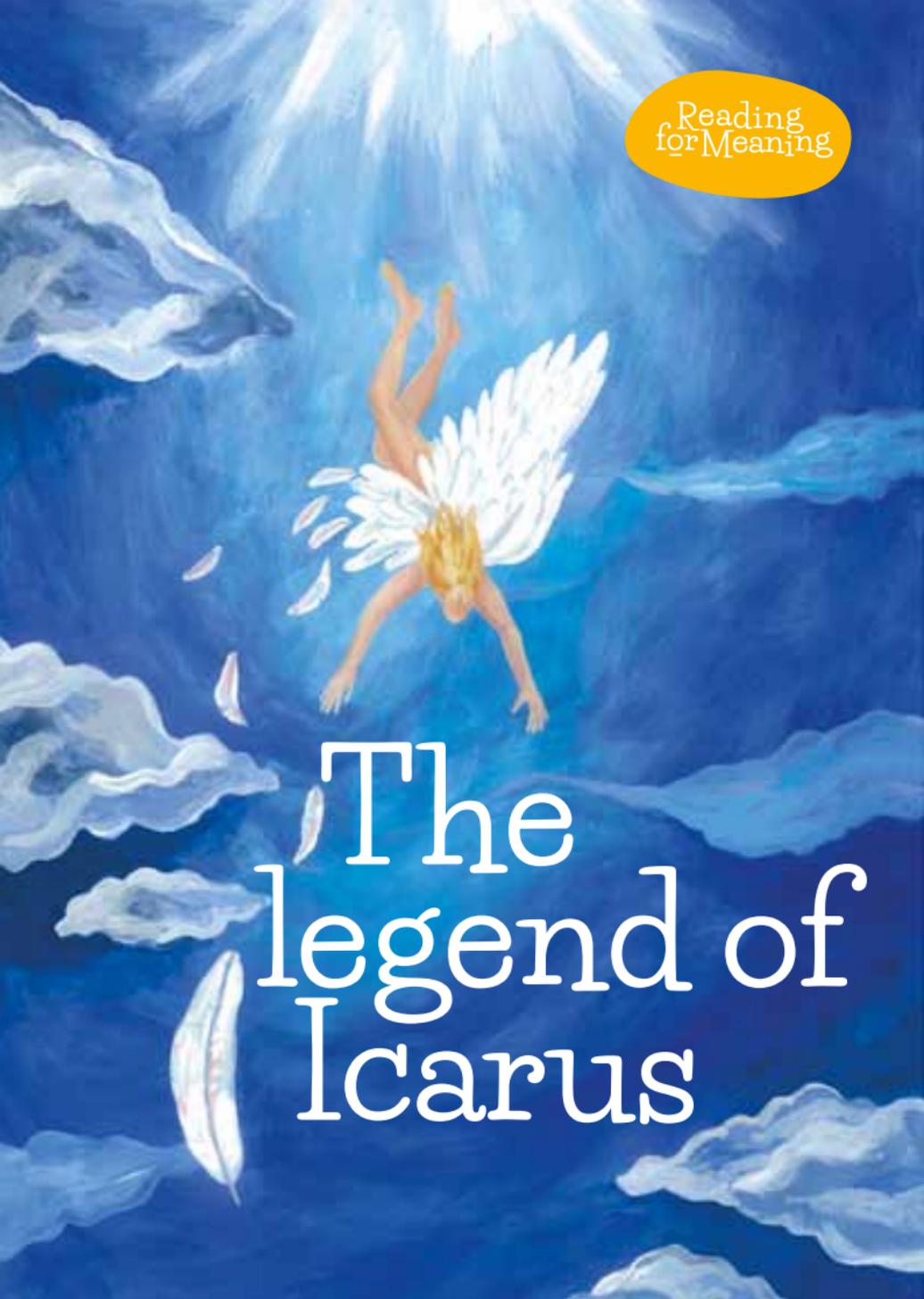
In old Greek, a story goes that there was once a man named Daedalus who was the best builder on King Minos's island of Crete. The King had asked him to build a big palace for him but the King trusted no one. Because of the King's actions something tragic happened...



READ THE STORY...

Read the story aloud, with expression. Change your voice when different characters speak.

Pause briefly for commas, full stops etc. and between paragraphs.



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The legend of Icarus

Once, a long long time ago, there was a king called Minos who ruled over the island of Crete. King Minos was a strange man. He had many secrets and he liked keeping things hidden away.

There was a very clever man living in Crete called Daedalus. King Minos said to Daedalus: "I want you to build me a palace. It must have lots of secret rooms and passages. But do not tell anyone about these secret places."

So Daedalus obeyed his king. He planned and built the palace. Now King Minos had everything he could want.

But the King was afraid. He thought "I don't want anyone to know about what is inside my palace. I can't let Daedalus talk to anyone else!"

So King Minos summoned Daedalus and said "I have decided that you and your son Icarus will live alone in a hut at the other end of the island. The hut is on the edge of a cliff so there is no

escape. You must hunt for your food, and you may not speak to anyone.”

King Minos’s soldiers took Daedalus and Icarus straight to the hut. They were prisoners! They could not escape from the island.

Daedalus was unhappy, and Icarus was lonely. He missed his friends.

Father and son spent hours thinking about how they could get away from the island and go across the sea to Greece.

One day, Daedalus thought of a plan to escape.

His idea came as they looked for food. Every day, Daedalus and Icarus hunted birds to roast on the fire. Sometimes Icarus went looking for bees, for their honey. Daedalus started keeping the birds’ feathers and the beeswax from the honey.

At night, when the guards were asleep, Daedalus started doing something very interesting. He

started making two pairs of wings from the wax and the feathers. He used strong reeds and leather straps to make a frame. Then he covered the frame in beeswax and finally he stuck the feathers into the beeswax, in rows, so that they looked just like the wings of a large bird.

After a few weeks, the wings were ready.

One night Daedalus said softly to his son: "Icarus, early tomorrow morning we will take these wings up to the top of the cliff. I will tie one pair onto you. Then you must be very brave and jump off the cliff."

"If you spread your wings, the air will hold you up," said his father. "I also have made a pair of wings for myself. Together, we will fly to Greece."

So, the next morning, Daedalus and Icarus climbed up to the cliff's edge, and tied the wings onto their shoulders.

Then Daedalus said: "My son, do not fly too

low, because the sea will wet your wings and pull you down. And whatever you do, do not fly too high, because the sun will melt the wax and then the wings will break apart. Now be brave – follow me, and jump!”

Daedalus jumped off the cliff first; he spread his wings and started to fly.

Icarus followed him. And - it was easy! The wings worked well. Far below him, Icarus could see little boats moving on the sea, with tiny fishermen in them. Icarus turned round and could see the island getting smaller and smaller behind him.

In front of him he could see his father with his wings spread wide and his white hair blowing in the wind. Far away, he could see Greece.

Flying was so easy, and so exciting! He wanted to go even higher!

Icarus flapped his wings and flew up up up,

higher and higher. Far below, he could see the little boats get smaller and smaller.

But suddenly, he felt hot wax running down his back. "Oh no!" he thought "No, no, no! This is what my father warned me about!"

He began to panic. He tried to fly lower, but it was already too late. Feathers were falling out as the wings broke up. He was falling! He screamed: "Father! Father!"

Daedalus turned around when he heard his son scream. He saw Icarus falling and called out, crying: "Icarus, my son, my son!"

But Icarus fell down through the air, faster and faster, down, down into the dark sea. There was nothing Daedalus could do.

Daedalus wept bitterly, knowing that he now had his freedom, but he had lost his son.

The story tells us that Daedalus flew all the way to Sicily, which also is an island, and here

he built a temple for his son. (A temple is a holy place, like a mosque, church or synagogue.)

This story has a very sad ending.



WORD FOCUS

Ask the Readers to choose words that they find difficult and write them on a sheet of paper.

Ask them to use a dictionary or ask someone else at home what those words mean in their home language. Help them out if necessary.



SECOND READING...

Once you've worked out the meaning of the words, read the story again out loud.

Activities

LET'S GET CREATIVE!

- 1** Ask the Readers to draw King Minos's palace.
- 2** After drawing the palace, they must draw a picture of Icarus and Daedalus flying in the sky.
- 3** They can take it further by asking people at home to help them create wings with recycled things at home.

Ending

Praise the Readers for their participation.

Ask if they enjoyed the story, and what they liked best. Tell them you enjoyed it too.

Say goodbye, and say how much you look forward to seeing them next time.

**ZERO
DROP/OUT**

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