



## PARTICIPATORY STORIES

### Icarus, the boy who flew too close to the sun (9 – 10 age group)

#### Learning objectives

This sheet consists of 5 writing proposals that allow students to identify with and even embody the characters. The objective is to write collaboratively the sequel, the development and, above all, the prequel of the story, in order to better understand what is at stake, reflect on the moral and draw lessons from it. Moving from one level (writing prompt) to the next, the children will expand the story, create a new ending.

#### Helpful Narrative & Writing Tools

- Ask the children in small groups to write a summary of the story by identifying three different phases of the story.
- Instruct the children to change the course of the story. They can insert dialogues for role-playing and enacting the new versions.
- Using the storytelling tool Myriorama, the children can subsequently modify the course of the story, changing the order in which the characters intervene and interpreting their actions differently.

## 1<sup>st</sup> sheet: SUMMARISING THE STORY

Working in groups, instruct pupils to identify 3 parts to the story of Icarus. Here is an example of how the parts can be segmented:

1. Daedalus, an architect and inventor, guilty of a horrible crime is exiled to the island of Crete. There he creates wonderful inventions for King Minos. One day, however, the king asks him to build a place to hide a monstrous creature: the Minotaur. Daedalus builds a labyrinth.
2. For killing Minos' son during the games, the Athenians must pay a tribute of fourteen children to be fed to the Minotaur each year. Theseus, the son of the king of Athens, decides to set off in hiding with the others to challenge the Minotaur. Arriving on the island of Crete, he meets Ariadne, daughter of Minos, who offers him a long thread with which to find his way out of the labyrinth.
3. Theseus kills the Minotaur and escapes with Ariadne. Minos blames Daedalus and locks him and his son Icarus in the labyrinth. Daedalus, however, builds two pairs of wax wings for his son and himself and with these they soar into the sky. Daedalus advises Icarus not to fly too close to the sun,

but Icarus, too overcome with joy to listen, soars upwards, causing his wings to melt. Icarus dies by falling into the sea.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> sheet: CHANGING THE COURSE OF THE STORY

Ask the children to work on the story using the three sections of the summary that they've identified, by making the necessary modifications.

---

Daedalus, an architect and inventor, guilty of a horrible crime is exiled to the island of Crete. There he creates wonderful inventions for King Minos. One day, however, the king asks him to build a place to hide a monstrous creature: the Minotaur. Daedalus builds a labyrinth.

---

Ask the students to alter the course of the story between the protagonists, trying to imagine themselves in the place of Daedalus, the Minotaur and Minos. To help them, you can ask questions such as:

- **If you were Daedalus/Minotaur/Minos, what would you think? What are your feelings? What would you say?**
- **Instead of a labyrinth, what would you build? What would you do if they (Minotaur) wanted to lock you up in such a sad place? What would you say to convince them not to?**
- **We know what a Minotaur looks like but we do not know his feelings. How old is he? What is the colour of his eyes? Does he like flowers or animals? Does he have any friends?**

## What may result is something like:

Daedalus, an architect and inventor, guilty of a horrible crime is exiled to the island of Crete. There he creates wonderful inventions for King Minos. One day, however, the king asks him to build a place to hide a monstrous creature: the Minotaur. Daedalus builds a labyrinth. **Frightened by the possibility of being locked up, and therefore no longer being able to pick flowers and observe the life of butterflies, the Minotaur promises to be good and to no longer harm anyone.**

Do the same for the other sections of the story.

---

For killing Minos' son during the games, the Athenians must pay a tribute of fourteen children to be fed to the Minotaur each year. Theseus, the son of the king of Athens, decides to set off in hiding with the others to challenge the Minotaur. Arriving on the island of Crete, he meets Ariadne, daughter of Minos, who offers him a long thread with which to find his way out of the labyrinth.

---

### What may result is something like:

For killing Minos' son during the games, the Athenians must pay a tribute of fourteen children to be fed to the Minotaur each year. Theseus, the son of the king of Athens, decides to set off in hiding with the others to challenge the Minotaur. Arriving on the island of Crete, he meets Ariadne, daughter of Minos, who **runs to meet him festively and, embracing them, invites everyone to a party held inside the labyrinth. The Minotaur has transformed it into an enchanting garden where colonies of butterflies prosper. Theseus and the others play and chase one another.**

And the last section:

---

Theseus kills the Minotaur and escapes with Ariadne. Minos blames Daedalus and locks him and his son Icarus in the labyrinth. Daedalus, however, builds two pairs of wax wings for his son and himself and

with these they soar into the sky. Daedalus advises Icarus not to fly too close to the sun, but Icarus, too overcome with joy to listen, soars upwards, causing his wings to melt. Icarus dies by falling into the sea.

---

Ask the students to write a dialogue between the protagonists, Daedalus and Icarus.

- **What would you think? What are your feelings? What would you say? Imagine you could fly, where would you go? Could you suggest modifications so that the wings wouldn't melt? Or does flying frighten you? Would you suggest to Daedalus that it is better to go for a swim with the dolphins?**

### What may result is something like:

~~Theseus kills the Minotaur and escapes with Ariadne. Minos blames Daedalus and locks him and his son Icarus in the labyrinth.~~ Daedalus builds two pairs of wax wings for his son and himself and with these they soar into the sky. **Icarus, however, feels insecure and as soon as he spots a tree, he perches on it like a big chicken. Flying is not for me! Icarus says to his father, who laughs and joins him. Let's go swimming with the dolphins, my arms can move in water very well!**

Changing the course of the story's 3 segments creates a new story.

### What the final result may look like:

Daedalus, an architect and inventor, guilty of a horrible crime is exiled to the island of Crete. There he creates wonderful inventions for King Minos. One day, however, the king asks him to build a place to hide a monstrous creature: the Minotaur. Daedalus builds a labyrinth. **Frightened by the possibility of being locked up, and therefore no longer being able to pick flowers and observe the life of butterflies, the Minotaur promises to be good and to no longer harm anyone.**

For killing Minos' son during the games, the Athenians must pay a tribute of fourteen children to be fed to the Minotaur each year. Theseus, the son of the king of Athens, decides to set off in hiding with the others to challenge the Minotaur. Arriving on the island of Crete, he meets Ariadne, daughter of Minos, who **runs to meet him festively and, embracing them, invites everyone to a party held inside the labyrinth. The Minotaur has transformed it into an enchanting garden where colonies of butterflies prosper. Theseus and the others play and chase one another.**



Daedalus builds two pairs of wax wings for his son and himself and with these they soar into the sky.

**Icarus, however, feels insecure and as soon as he spots a tree, he perches on it like a big chicken.**

**Flying is not for me! Icarus says to his father, who laughs and joins him. Let's go swimming with the dolphins, my arms can move in water very well!**

At this point, you could ask the various groups of children to exchange stories about correcting and checking punctuation in their work.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> sheet: WRITING A LETTER

Based on the new story, ask the children to imagine a hypothetical letter written by one character to the other. For example: Daedalus writing to the Minotaur. Minos writing to Theseus, etc. The produced text must be written in the first person as if the experience of the chosen character were a personal experience. It must also contain all the information and references to the chosen section. For example, Icarus writing to Daedalus in sect. 3 of the new story.

#### What may result is something like:

"Dear Father,

I am writing to tell you that I greatly appreciated your invention of the wax wings, and I always admire your ability to imagine. However, we both came close to a bad end, albeit through my own fault because when I found myself up in the sky among the clouds, and the birds for a moment your words of warning disappeared from my head. Only fear made me come to my senses and make the right decision to land in that tree.

I think it was a wise decision. I embrace you and think of you.

Your son Icarus."



Co-funded by  
the European Union

The STORIAS project is co-financed by the ERASMUS+ programme of the EU. Its content reflects the views of the authors, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information therein. (Project code: 2021-1-FR01-KA220-SCH-000029483).

## 4<sup>th</sup> sheet: TAUTOGRAM

As an additional exercise and challenge, ask the students to try their hand at writing tautograms, complete sentences using the initial letters of each protagonist. They can create them inspired by the original story or the new version: Daedalus, Icarus, Minotaur... etc.

What may result is something like:

MINOTAUR:

**My maze makes me mad. Maybe music may move me.**

## 5<sup>th</sup> sheet: MYRIORAMA

To change the story entirely, you could ask the children to use the Myriorama cards. In fact, by moving and subverting the order of the cards you change the entry of the various characters and their actions into the story.

Ask the children to write down the result of their new storytelling.