

5 Two Who Flew

a Greek myth

Before You Read

Before you read “Two Who Flew,” go over the words below. Make sure you know what each word means. This will help you when you read the story.

island: land that has water all around it. We needed a boat to get to the *island*.

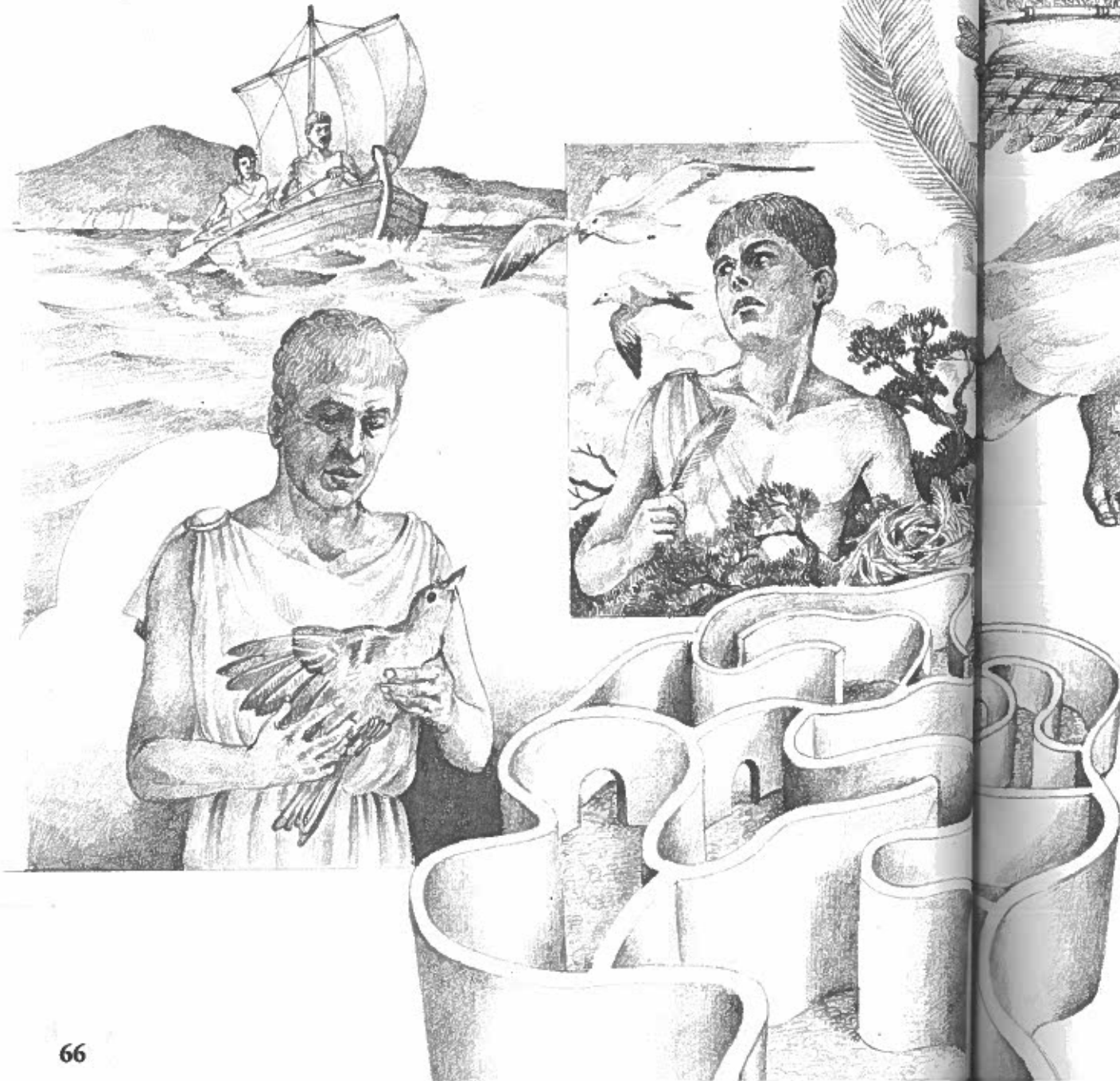
beast: a big animal that people are afraid of. Everyone ran from the *beast*.

wax: something that is hard when cold and soft when warm. The hot sun made the *wax* candles soft.

melts: makes soft or turns to water. When ice *melts*, it becomes water.

Two Who Flew

a Greek myth



A myth is a very old story. It was made up a long time ago. It has lasted through the years.

There are many myths. Some tell about people who were great. They might have been very strong. They might have been very smart. They might have done wonderful things.

This is a Greek myth. It is about a man. Daedalus (DED'•A•LUS) was his name.

Daedalus was very smart. He liked to build things. He could make anything.



Crete is an island. There is water all around it. The king of Crete needed help. He did not know what to do. Then he said to himself, "Maybe Daedalus can help me." So the king sent for him.

Daedalus got on a boat. He went to Crete with his son. Icarus (IK'•A•RUS) was the boy's name.

Daedalus met the king. The king said, "Daedalus, I am glad you are here. I have heard about you. I know you are smart. You can build anything."

Daedalus said, "How can I help you? What do you want me to do?"

The king said, "There is a beast. It lives here in Crete. It has hurt many people. We cannot kill this beast. It is much too big. It is much too strong. Can you build something to hold in this beast? Can you build something that will keep it away from people?"

Daedalus said, "Let me think."

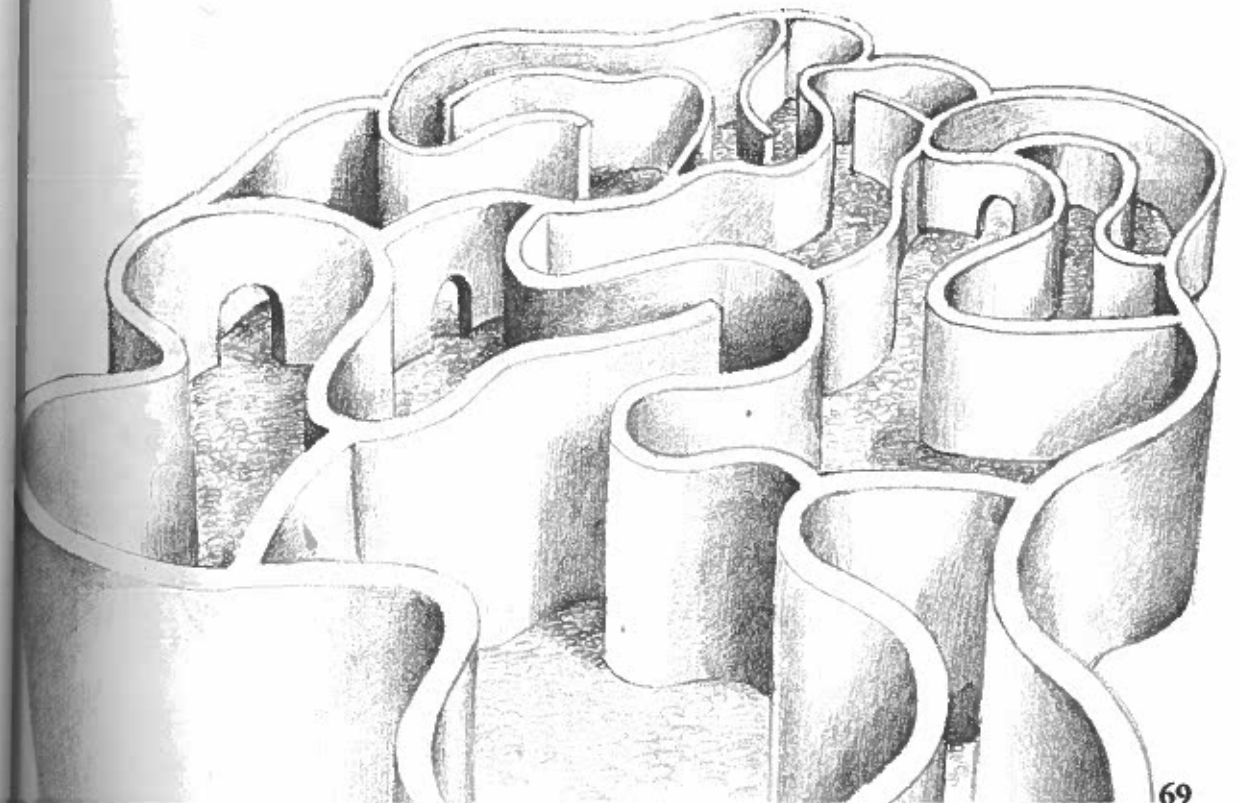
"I will pay you well," said the king. "I will give you a lot of gold."

Daedalus thought for a while. Then he said, "I know what to do."

Daedalus built something. He called it a maze. The maze was very big. It went around and around. It went in and out. There were many different ways to go in the maze.

The beast saw the maze. It wondered what it was. It went into the maze. The beast went around and around. It went this way and that. It could not find the way out of the maze.

The king was happy.



Daedalus said, "Now please give me my gold."

The king laughed. He said, "The beast cannot get out. It goes around and around. I will not give you any gold. If I do, you will leave Crete. You will go far away. You will help someone else. No. I will lock you in a room. I will keep you there. I may need your help again."

The king's men locked Daedalus in a room. They put him there with his son. But Daedalus was very smart. He could make anything. He made a key. He waited until night. Then Daedalus used the key to open the door. He escaped from the room. He and Icarus got away. They hid on the island. The king could not find them.

The king was angry. He told his men, "You must search every boat that leaves Crete. Do it with care. Make sure that Daedalus is not on any boat."

The king thought to himself, "Daedalus is smart. But he will not get away. He will never leave this island."

Daedalus wanted to leave Crete. But how could he do that? Crete is an island. There is water all around it.

One day, Daedalus was looking at the sky. He was watching some birds. Daedalus said to his son, "Icarus, see those birds. They are free. They can fly anywhere. I wish we could fly. We could fly away from this place. We could leave this island. The king could not stop us."



"That is so," Icarus said. "But we are not birds. We cannot fly."

Daedalus kept watching the birds. He saw how the birds flew. He saw the shape of their wings. He saw how the wings moved.

Then Daedalus said to his son, "Let us go into the hills. Birds build their nests in the hills. We will find feathers there. I need many feathers. I want to make wings."

They went into the hills. They found feathers there. Some feathers were big. Others were small. The father and son got many feathers.



Yes, Daedalus was smart. He could build anything. He put the feathers together with wax. The wax held them in place. He made a big pair of wings.

Daedalus put the wings around his back. He tied the wings to his arms. He moved his arms up and down. He beat the air with his wings. That was what the birds did. Daedalus moved up into the air. And soon he was flying!

Daedalus made another pair of wings. "Here, Icarus," he said. "These are for you."

Icarus put the wings on his back. He tied the wings to his arms.

Then Daedalus said, "With these wings we can fly. We can fly like the birds. We can fly anywhere. With these wings we can leave Crete. We can fly over the water. We can fly back to our home!"



Icarus smiled. He was happy to go.

Daedalus said, "I will go first. Let me lead the way. You follow me."

They got ready to leave. Daedalus said, "Icarus, my son. Listen to me. Listen very well. Do not fly too low. But do not fly too high. Stay far away from the sun. Just follow me."

"I will," said the boy.

Daedalus said, "We must wait for a wind."

Soon the winds began to blow. They began to blow hard. Daedalus said, "This is a good time to go."

Daedalus moved his arms up and down. His wings beat the air. Icarus did the same thing. Soon father and son were flying through the air.

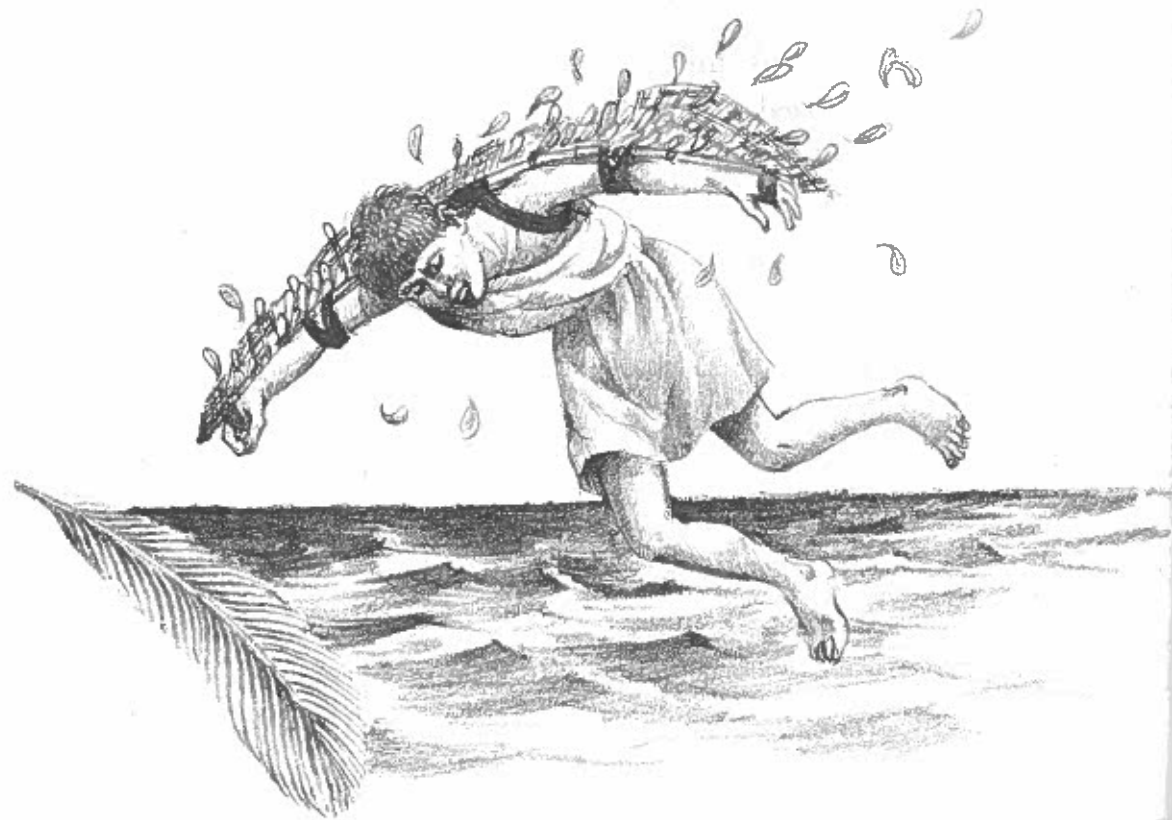
Daedalus led the way. Icarus followed him. They flew over the water! They flew for a long time.

"Flying is fun!" Icarus cried. He began to fly fast. He flew faster and faster.

"Yes. Flying is fun!" Icarus called out. He flew higher and higher and higher.

"Wait! Icarus!" Daedalus called. "You are flying too high!" But the boy was too far away. He could not hear his father.

Icarus flew closer to the sun. It was hot near the sun. The feathers on his wings were held together by wax. The wax began to melt. The feathers fell out. The wings did not work! The boy began to fall!



Down Icarus fell. Down, down, down went the boy.
 Poor Daedalus watched. There was nothing he could do.
 The boy hit the water. And then he was gone!

Daedalus flew on. But he was very sad. He had lost his
 son. The fun of flying was gone.

Soon Daedalus reached home. He took off his wings. He
 put them away. And he never flew again.

TELL ABOUT THE STORY.

Put an X in the box next to the right answer. Each answer tells something (a *fact*) about the story.

- The king asked Daedalus to make something that would
 - a. kill the beast.
 - b. hold in the beast.
 - c. make the beast go away.
- Daedalus left Crete by
 - a. taking a boat.
 - b. flying in an airplane.
 - c. flying like a bird.
- Daedalus told Icarus to
 - a. fly very low.
 - b. stay far away from the sun.
 - c. fly as fast as he could.
- Icarus fell
 - a. into the water.
 - b. down a hill.
 - c. off a boat.

END EACH LINE.

Finish the lines below. Fill in each empty space with one of the words in the box. Each word can be found in the story. There are five words and four empty spaces. This means that one word in the box will not be used.

Wilbur and Orville Wright wanted to _____₁. They worked on an airplane for seven _____₂. In 1903 they were ready to see if it _____₃. It did—Wilbur flew 120 feet through the _____₄.

birds	air
worked	years
fly	

x 5 =
 NUMBER CORRECT YOUR SCORE

x 5 =
 NUMBER CORRECT YOUR SCORE

SHOW WHAT WORDS MEAN.

The words below are printed in **dark letters** in the story. You may look back at these vocabulary words before you answer the questions. Put an X in the box next to the right answer.

1. Daedalus escaped from the room. The word *escaped* means
 a. got out of.
 b. knew about.
 c. looked into.
2. Daedalus and Icarus hid on the island. The word *hid* means
 a. asked for help.
 b. looked for friends.
 c. went where it is hard to be seen.
3. The king told his men to search every boat. The word *search* means to
 a. go far away.
 b. open and close.
 c. try to find by looking.
4. He saw the shape of the birds' wings. The *shape* of something is the
 a. way it looks.
 b. way it sounds.
 c. way it smells.

<input type="text"/>	x 5 =	<input type="text"/>
NUMBER CORRECT		YOUR SCORE

THINK ABOUT THE STORY.

Here is how to answer these questions. First think about what happened in the story. Then work out the right answers. This is called *critical thinking*.

1. Daedalus learned how to fly by
 a. reading books.
 b. watching birds.
 c. talking to other people.
2. Which one is true?
 a. The king gave Daedalus gold.
 b. The beast got out of the maze.
 c. Daedalus came home alone.
3. At the end of the story, Daedalus was
 a. happy because he could fly.
 b. sad because his son was gone.
 c. angry because the wings did not work.
4. The story shows that Icarus
 a. did not fly high enough.
 b. did not fly fast enough.
 c. should have listened to his father.

<input type="text"/>	x 5 =	<input type="text"/>
NUMBER CORRECT		YOUR SCORE

SPOT PARTS OF A STORY.

Stories have **characters**, a **plot**, and a **setting**. (See page 3.) Put an X in the box next to the right answer.

1. What happened first? (**Plot**)
 a. The beast went into the maze.
 b. Daedalus went to Crete.
 c. Daedalus made some wings.
2. What happened last? (**Plot**)
 a. They put Daedalus in a room.
 b. Icarus fell into the water.
 c. Icarus began to fly higher.
3. Which best tells about Daedalus? (**Character**)
 a. He could make anything.
 b. He did not like to build things.
 c. He did not want to leave Crete.
4. When does the story take place? (**Setting**)
 a. today
 b. last year
 c. a long time ago

<input type="text"/>	x 5 =	<input type="text"/>
NUMBER CORRECT		YOUR SCORE

THINK SOME MORE ABOUT THE STORY.

Your teacher might want you to write your answers.

- Why do you think Daedalus waited for a wind before he and Icarus started to fly?
- What if Icarus had stayed behind his father in the air? How do you think the story would have ended?
- Why didn't Daedalus ever fly again?

Write your scores in the box below. Then write your scores on pages 122 and 123.

<input type="text"/>	T	ELL ABOUT THE STORY
+		
<input type="text"/>	E	ND EACH LINE
+		
<input type="text"/>	S	HOW WHAT WORDS MEAN
+		
<input type="text"/>	T	HINK ABOUT THE STORY
+		
<input type="text"/>	S	POT PARTS OF A STORY
=		
<input type="text"/>	TOTAL SCORE:	Story 5