

## Daedalus

The labyrinth from which Theseus escaped by means of the clew of Ariadne, was built by Daedalus, a most skillful artificer. It was an edifice with numberless winding passages and turnings opening into one another, and seeming to have neither beginning nor end, like the river Maenander, which returns on itself, and flows now onward, now backward, in its course to the sea. Daedalus built the labyrinth for King Minos, but afterwards lost the favor of the king, and was shut up in a tower. He contrived to make his escape from his prison, but could not leave the island by sea, as the king kept strict watch on all the vessels, and permitted none to sail without being carefully searched. "Minos may control the land and sea,:" said Daedalus, "but not the regions of the air. I will try that way."

So he set to work to fabricate wings for himself and his young son Icarus. He wrought feathers together beginning with the smallest and adding larger, so as to form an increasing surface. The larger ones he secured with thread and the smaller with wax, and gave the whole a gentle curvature like the wings of a bird. Icarus, the boy, stood and looked on, sometimes running to gather up the feathers which the wind had blown away, and then handling the wax and working it over with his fingers, by his play impeding his father in his labors.

When at last the work was done, the artist, waving his wings, found himself buoyed upward and hung suspended, poising himself on the beaten air. He next equipped his son in the same manner, and taught him how to fly, as a bird tempts her young ones from the lofty nest into the air. When all was prepared for flight, he said, "Icarus, my son, I charge you to keep at a moderate height, for if you fly too low the damp will clog your wings, and if too high the heat will melt them. Keep near me and you will be safe." While he gave him these instructions and fitted the wings to his shoulders, the face of the father was wet with tears, and his hands trembled. He kissed the boy, not knowing that it was for the last time.

Then rising on his wings he flew off, encouraging him to follow, and looked back from his own flight to see how his son managed his wings. As they flew the ploughman stopped his work to gaze, and the shepherd leaned on his staff and watched them, astonished at the sight, and thinking they were gods who could thus cleave the air.

Daedalus and Icarus passed Samos and Delos on the left and Lebynthos on the right, when the boy, exulting in his career, began to leave the guidance of his companion and soar upward as if to reach heaven. The nearness of the blazing sun softened the wax which held the feathers together, and they came off. Icarus fluttered with his arms, but no feathers remained to hold the air. While his mouth uttered cries to his father, it was submerged in the blue waters of

the sea, which thenceforth was called by his name. His father cried, "Icarus, Icarus, where are you?"

At last he saw the feathers floating on the water, and bitterly lamenting his own arts, he buried the body and called the land Icaria in memory of his child. Daedalus arrived safe in Sicily, where he built a temple to Apollo, and hung up his wings, an offering to the god.

### **ASSIGNMENT FOR OCTOBER 8, 2020**

**Due by email no later than 10 p.m. please**

**Read Instructions very carefully — and scan this completed sheet to your homework**

1. Choose either "Marsyas" or "Leading by Example"

\_\_\_\_ 2. Using your key word outline only (make sure it has all the 5 W's & the H), NOT your condensed writing, write an expanded version of the story so that it has the following characteristics:

\_\_\_\_ a. your expanded version is at between 150 and 175 words in length

\_\_\_\_ b. use at least 5 examples of vivid diction (be sure to circle these to show you have them)

\_\_\_\_ c. use at least 3 direct quotes with proper punctuation

\_\_\_\_ d. use at least 3 added details, which you can make up, but be CERTAIN they don't change the intent or mood of the story (mark these details with an asterisk)

\_\_\_\_ e. use 3 "ly" adverbs as dressups (underline these)

\_\_\_\_ f. show your word count

\_\_\_\_ g. proofread carefully (especially the punctuation for dialog)

Remember to use our analysis of the "Daedalus" version of the story of Icarus as a model for your efforts, but

\_\_\_\_ Be sure to read your writing aloud to check for style: does it sound grammatical? Do you like the way it sounds?

\_\_\_\_ Remember to have your final copy be very neat, with the title at the top center and your name and the date on the top right. Attach this sheet.

Always keep your key word outlines and rough drafts in your notebook. You may need them in future.