

Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths

"Theseus" Study Guide

I. Intro – A Voice from the Sea (p. 145- 151)

1. Review: What is a demigod?
2. Why can't Theseus' father acknowledge his son? (What might happen and why?)
3. When he is younger, what is Theseus' main source of personal insecurity?
4. How does Theseus strengthen himself?
5. What is the message that the bird gives to Theseus?
6. Who does Theseus discover is his father? Why does Theseus' mother not know who his real father is?
7. How does Theseus prove he is a king's son in his hometown before leaving for Athens?

II. The Road – Athens (p. 151- 157)

1. How does Theseus defeat Corynetes?
2. How does Theseus defeat Sciron?
3. How does Theseus defeat Procrustes?
4. Why does Theseus feel humiliated when he arrives in Athens?
5. What is the tribute that Athens must pay to Crete? Why?
6. What is a Minotaur and how did it come into being?
7. Why does Theseus want to go to Crete? How does he get to go to Crete?
8. How will Aegeus know if Theseus is alive after battling the Minotaur?

III. Crete (p. 157- 171)

1. What does Theseus instruct the young men and maidens to do on the voyage to Crete?
2. Describe the atmosphere of Knossos, the capital of Crete, on the day when the Athenians arrive.
3. How does Theseus convince King Minos to meet with him?
4. What request does Theseus make of Minos? Why?
5. What does Minos offer to Theseus instead of his request?
6. Who is Minos' father? How is his parentage proven?
7. How does Theseus prove his parentage?
8. Why does Minos see Theseus as a danger?
9. What is the Labyrinth?
10. How is Ariadne going to help Theseus? Why is she going to help him?
11. What does the Minotaur look like?
12. How does Theseus defeat the Minotaur?
13. Why does Phaedra go with Theseus?
14. What does Theseus forget to do as he is celebrating the defeat of the Minotaur and return of the Athenians?
15. A myth is a story that explains the origin of something. At the end of this story, what is one thing that the origin or creation of is explained?

IV. Synthesis

Heroes often go on journeys called **quests** in order to prove themselves. Identify the two quests that Theseus goes on in this story and examine what he is proving about himself through each quest. Answer in a paragraph for each quest; be sure to identify what Theseus does on each quest and what he proves about himself through these incidents.