

Grade 6 Lesson 18

Use the story by Robert Byrd titled “The Hero and the Minotaur,” on pages 523-535 in your student reader to answer the questions below.

Directions

Read the story. Then answer questions 1 and 2.

1. How does King Minos feel about the city of Athens? Use **two** details from the story to support your answer.

2. What is the meaning of the word “colossus” as it is used in paragraph 1 on page 534? Use **two** details from the story to support your answer.

3. Read this sentence from paragraph 2 on page 526:

A towering figure ran back and forth across the harbor entrance.

How does this sentence contribute to the structure of the story? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

EXEMPLARY RESPONSE

RL.5.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

W.6.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience.

2015 Stem used: How does [character] feel about X? Use two details from the story to support your response. **RL.5.3**

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1. How does King Minos feel about the city of Athens? Use two details from the story to support your response.

Possible Exemplary Response:

King Minos feels rage towards the city of Athens. Many years before, King Minos's son was visiting Athens and he was killed by a bull during his visit. King Minos blamed Athens for the loss of his son. Minos made war and threatened to destroy Athens if King Aegeus did not pay tribute to him by sacrificing seven men and seven women to the Minotaur every year.

Possible Details to Include:

- Other relevant text-based details

Score Points:

Apply 2-point holistic rubric

EXEMPLARYRESPONSE - 2 Point

Reading/Writing Standard(s) RL.6.4, W.6.4

RL.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of the specific word choice on meaning and tone.

W.6.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience.

2017 stem used: What is the meaning of the word “X” as it is used in line # of the article? Use two details from the article to support your response. **RI.6.4**

p. 534

2. What is the meaning of the word “colossus” as it is used on page 534 of the story? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

Possible Exemplary Response:

The word “colossus” refers to the enormous robot Talus that guards the harbor of Crete. In the myth, Talus is described as “towering” and “giant.” He is destroyed by a massive wave, because only something massive, or enormously powerful, could crush the giant.

Possible Details to Include:

- Other relevant text-based details

Score Points:

Apply 2 point rubric

EXEMPLARY RESPONSE

RL.6.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza first into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

W.6.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience.

2018 stem used: Read this sentence from paragraph #. How does this sentence contribute to the structure of the story? Use two details from the story to support your response. **RL.6.5**

Read this sentence from paragraph 2 on page 526:

A towering figure ran back and forth across the harbor entrance.

How does this sentence contribute to the structure of the story? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

Possible Exemplary Response:

This sentence contributes to the structure of the story by introducing the problem of the bronze giant guarding the entrance. In the text it states, "It moves as though it were alive and guards the harbor against King Minos' enemies." Another detail is, "He would smash us to bits if it were not for our black sail."

Possible Details to Include:

- Other relevant text-based details

Score Points:

Apply 2-point holistic rubric

EXEMPLARY RESPONSE - 4 Point

Reading/Writing Standard(s) RL 6.3, W.6.4

RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward resolution.

W.6.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience.

Stem used: How does [character] feel about X at the beginning middle and end of story? What causes his/her feelings to change? Use details from the story to support your response.

How does Theseus feel about the challenges of defeating the Minotaur at the beginning, middle, and end of the story? What causes his feelings to change? Use details from the story to support your response.

In your response be sure to:

- explain what challenges Theseus faced in defeating the Minotaur at the beginning, middle, and end of the story
- explain what caused Theseus' feelings to change
- use details from the story to support your response

Possible Exemplary Response:

In the myth "The Hero and the Minotaur" Theseus' feelings about the challenge of defeating the Minotaur change several times throughout the story.

At the beginning of the story, Theseus is angered to learn about Minos' cruel revenge on the citizens of Athens. Theseus tells his father that he will slay the Minotaur to free the people of Athens from this yearly torment.

As the story continues, Theseus' grows excited at the prospect of defeating the Minotaur. When the ship sets to sail, "Many around him wept at the sad departure, but Theseus could think only of the thrilling adventure before him." Theseus was standing tall and unafraid as his ship approached the giant on the shores of the Island of Crete; his confidence was noticed by Princess Ariadne, standing on the bluff overlooking the harbor.

After defeating the Minotaur, Theseus is shaken from the fury of the struggle and is wary knowing that he must find his way back through the labyrinth and get himself, Ariadne, and the rest of the Athenians off the island before Minos comes after them.

Throughout the story, Theseus' feelings change as his circumstances change. He is angry in the beginning which turns to excitement. After defeating the Minotaur, however, he becomes a little wiser and is anxious to get off the island.

Possible Details to Include:

- Other relevant text-based details

Score Points:

Apply 4-point holistic rubric