

Flight of Icarus Selection Quiz

Comprehension - Read each of the following questions. Then choose the letter of the best answer.

1. Daedalus made wings for himself and his son in order to
 - a. teach his son to fly.
 - b. be more like the gods.
 - c. escape from the island of Crete.
 - d. show that he was an ingenious artist.
2. Why did Daedalus have "misgivings" while watching Icarus fly?
 - a. He thought that Icarus would be too afraid.
 - b. He thought that the wings would not be strong enough.
 - c. He thought that the winds would be too strong.
 - d. He thought that Icarus would be too bold and reckless.
3. Why did Icarus fly higher and higher into the sky?
 - a. He wanted to impress the shepherds and plowmen.
 - b. He did not know how to control his wings.
 - c. He was bewitched by a sense of freedom.
 - d. He was obeying his father's instructions.
4. Daedalus first knew that his fears had come true when
 - a. he saw feathers floating from the sky.
 - b. he heard Icarus cry out to him.
 - c. he felt the heat of the sun.
 - d. he saw his son plunge into the sea.
5. When Daedalus arrived safely in Sicily he

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- a. buried his son.
 - b. built a temple.
 - c. made another pair of wings.
 - d. rejoiced in his escape.
6. Daedalus could not follow Icarus into the sky because
- a. he was too heavy.
 - b. he was too cautious.
 - c. he was too slow.
 - d. he was too anxious.

Vocabulary

Choose the answer that best explains the meaning of each underlined word.

7. A moderate amount of something is
- a. very generous.
 - b. just enough.
 - c. too little.
 - d. well-earned.
8. What does prowess mean?
- a. strength
 - b. arrogance
 - c. intelligence
 - d. recklessness
9. Something that is done in a frantic way is done
- a. calmly.

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- b. deliberately.
- c. lovingly.
- d. hastily.

10. A sign that a person is experiencing anxiety might be

- a. an angry frown.
- b. sweaty palms.
- c. a relaxed smile.
- d. extreme tiredness.

Written Response: Answer the following questions based on your knowledge of the myth.

11. What is one theme of the myth? Explain how it is revealed in the text.

12. Contrast the feelings Icarus experienced during his flight with those of his father Daedalus, citing evidence from the text.