



PENGUIN ACTIVE READING

LEVEL 1

Theseus and the Minotaur

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

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Theseus and the Minotaur

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Level 1

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1.1 What's the book about?

Look at the picture on the front of this book. You can see a man and a Minotaur. Talk about the picture. Then write these words in the sentences.

bad dark good knife room name

- 1 They are in a small room
- 2 It is in the room.
- 3 The young man's is Theseus.
- 4 He is a man.
- 5 The Minotaur is big and
- 6 The young man has a in his hand.

1.2 What happens first?

What do you think? Number the pictures, 1–4.



A King's Sword

*'You have two fathers, Theseus,' his mother said. 'You are the son of Poseidon, the **god** of the sea, and the son of **King** Aegeus.'*

Theseus lived with his mother in Troezen, in Greece. He was a clever, happy young man, but he did not know his father.

One day, his mother said to him, 'Come with me into the garden, Theseus. Do you see that big **rock**? Can you move it, my son?'

Theseus was strong. He moved the rock and looked under it. There was a **sword** – a king's sword!



god /gɒd/ (n) Apollo was not a man. He was a Greek *god*.

king /kɪŋ/ (n) The people in this country love their *king*.

rock /rɒk/ (n) That *rock* is going to fall on his head.

sword /sɔːd/ (n) He was dead on the floor, with a *sword* in his back.

‘This is the sword of King Aegeus,’ his mother said. ‘And now it is yours.’

Theseus looked at her, and then at the sword. ‘Mine?’ he said. ‘Why is it mine?’

‘You have two fathers, Theseus,’ his mother said. ‘You are the son of Poseidon, the god of the sea, and the son of King Aegeus. King Aegeus lives in Athens. Go to him now. It is time.’

That night, Theseus said goodbye to his mother.

‘I am going to walk to my father’s home,’ he said to her.

‘But it is a long and difficult walk,’ his mother said.

‘I am strong,’ Theseus said. ‘You know that, Mother. Don’t **cry** for me.’



cry /kraɪ/ (v, past cried /kraɪd/) Don't cry! Be happy.



Theseus walked for ten days. There were many bad men on the road. But he **fought** them – and he **killed** them. Then he came to Athens, to the home of King Aegeus.

But Aegeus had a new **wife**, Medea, and she had a son too. She was angry about Theseus.

'He is your father's first son,' she said to her son. 'You are going to be king after your father – not him.'

She wanted to kill Theseus. But Aegeus watched her and he stopped her.

The king talked to Theseus. 'You moved the rock and you have my sword,' he said. 'You are my son.'



fight /faɪt/ (v, past fought /fɔ:t/) (n) Don't *fight* him! He has a knife.

kill /kɪl/ (v) They *kill* people for money.

wife /waɪf/ (n) My mother was my father's first *wife*.

A King Cries

*'The Minotaur lives in a dark **maze** near its father's house.
People go into the maze – but they do not come out.'*

One evening, Theseus went for a walk in the garden. His father was there and he looked very unhappy.

'Why are you crying, Father?' Theseus asked.

'Early tomorrow a boat is going to **sail** to the **island** of Crete,' Aegeus said. 'Minos is king of Crete and his son is the Minotaur.'

'What is the Minotaur?' Theseus asked.



maze /meɪz/ (n) There are children in the *maze* and they can't get out.

sail /seɪl/ (v/n) I can *sail* those boats. The boats have white *sails*.

island /ˈaɪlənd/ (n) They are on holiday on one of the Caribbean *islands*.



‘The Minotaur is **half bull** and half man. Minos had two sons, but we killed one in a fight. Then we **lost** the fight. Now, every year, fourteen young Athenians go to Crete. They are food for the Minotaur.’

‘The Minotaur eats people?’ Theseus asked.

‘Yes,’ his father said. ‘The Minotaur lives in a dark maze near its father’s house. People go into the maze – but they do not come out.’

Theseus was angry. ‘Father,’ he said. ‘I can go too! I can fight the Minotaur! I can kill it!’

‘How?’ King Aegeus asked.

‘I am strong and clever,’ Theseus said. ‘Tomorrow I am going to sail to the island of Crete!’



half /hɑ:f/ (adj) He has got a *half* bottle of water.

bull /bul/ (n) The *bull* is a big black animal.

lose /lu:z/ (v, past **lost** /lɒst/) I am angry because he *lost* my book.

2.1 Were you right?

Look at your answers to Activity 1.2 on page ii. Then circle the right answers.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|----|
| 1 The sword is under a big rock. | Yes | No |
| 2 Theseus can't move the rock. | Yes | No |
| 3 It is Poseidon's sword. | Yes | No |
| 4 Medea loves Theseus. | Yes | No |
| 5 Theseus is King Aegeus's son. | Yes | No |

2.2 What more did you learn?

Write the names under the pictures. Then talk about the people. Are they good or bad?

King Aegeus

King Minos

Medea

Poseidon

Theseus

Medea's son

the Minotaur

Theseus's mother



Poseidon

good?



2.3 Language in use

Look at the words on the right. Then put *going to* in the right place in these sentences.

'Tomorrow I am **going to** sail to the island of Crete.'

1 'I am walk to my father's home.'

'I am going to walk to my father's home.'

2 'You are be king after your father.'

3 Medea's son is not be king.

4 Is the Minotaur eat the Athenians?

5 Theseus is to fight the Minotaur.

2.4 What's next?

What are you going to read now? Write ✓ or X.

