Name: _____ Date: _____

Icarus Flies

Reading level 7 (3rd grade) · 295 words

King Minos kept Daedalus and his son in a tower. Soldiers watched the door. They looked out at the sea.

Daedalus was the best maker in Greece. He had built a great maze for the king. But now he wanted to go home.

"The king can stop every ship," said Icarus. Daedalus saw a gull. "But the sky is open," he said.

Daedalus picked up feathers from the beach. He lined them up from small to big. He tied the big ones with thread.

He stuck the small ones on with candle wax. Then he bent them into the shape of a wing.

Icarus helped. He ran after the feathers when the wind blew them. He pushed a finger into the soft wax.

"Listen well," said Daedalus. "Do not fly too low. The sea will wet your wings."

"Do not fly too high. The sun is hot, and wax is soft. Stay close to me."

They jumped from the window, and the wind caught them. Up they went over the island! A fisherman looked up and stared.

At first Icarus stayed close to his father. Then he began to spin and dive. It was the best feeling in the world.

Higher and higher he climbed. "Come back!" shouted Daedalus. The wind took his words away.

The sun grew hot, and the wax went soft. One feather fell off, and then more. They floated away on the wind.

Icarus tumbled toward the sea. Daedalus dived after him, calling his name. A fisherman saw them from his boat.

The fisherman helped them aboard. Icarus was wet and sorry, but he was not hurt. "I should have listened," he said.

Daedalus hugged him tight. They sailed to a new home. He hung the last feathers by his door.

Questions

1. Where did the king keep Daedalus and Icarus?

A. In a deep cave
B. On a ship
C. In a tall tower by the sea

2. What did Daedalus use to stick on the small feathers?

A. Wax from a candle
B. Mud
C. String

3. What were the two warnings?

A. Not too fast and not too slow
B. Not too low and not too high
C. Not at night and not at dawn

4. Why did the feathers drift away?

A. The sun made the wax soft
B. The wind got cold
C. Icarus pulled them

5. The feathers floated away. What does "floated" mean?

A. Fell with a bang
B. Ran fast
C. Drifted slowly

6. What does the story show about Icarus?

A. He forgot the warning because flying was so much fun
B. He was afraid of heights
C. He did not want to leave

Words to know

maze: twisty puzzle
gull: a seabird
floated: drifted slowly
stared: gazed hard

Answer key: Icarus Flies

1. C. In a tall tower by the sea
2. A. Wax from a candle
3. B. Not too low and not too high
4. A. The sun made the wax soft
5. C. Drifted slowly
6. A. He forgot the warning because flying was so much fun