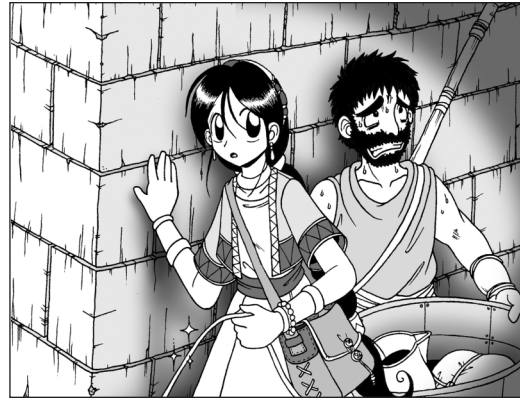


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Chapter One: The Princess and the Labyrinth



Vocabulary

timidly
maze
petrified
trance
withered
sentenced
design
complicated

Facts and Details: Literal Meaning

1. Who is Ariadne? Who is her father?
2. What is a labyrinth?
3. What is the Minotaur? Who is its father?
4. What does Ariadne use to guide her through the Labyrinth?
5. Who accompanies Ariadne inside the Labyrinth?

What's Going On?: Reading Comprehension

1. Why isn't Ariadne afraid to go into the Labyrinth?
2. Why does Ariadne place flowers in the Labyrinth?
3. Why doesn't Ariadne have the same helper each day?
4. In what way is the Minotaur reliant on Ariadne?
5. What crime might the prisoner be guilty of committing?

In your own words...

Ariadne enters the Labyrinth each day, yet is only able to find her way with the help of the magic thread. Have you ever been lost and fearful that you would not find your way? How did you eventually find your way? with the help of a friend? a map?

Background and Additional Information

The Labyrinth of Minos may have been entirely mythological, but the notion of an unsolvable maze in which death lurks has exerted a strong draw on the human imagination since the days of the early people who first created this story.

However, you will also find a significant number of references today to medieval labyrinths, which are used not as puzzles but for meditation. These labyrinths are in various patterns, often laid out in a mosaic-type pattern on the floor of a cathedral. They contain no dead ends but create a long and convoluted pathway to the center. People go slowly through them, pausing at each step in silent meditation.

Multidisciplinary Connections

(Math)

Create Labyrinths and discuss in terms of area and depth using mathematical operations. Add scales for conversion.

(Social Studies)

Look at a map/globe and determine the location where this story takes place.

(Physical Education)

Create a Labyrinth with traffic cones and record time it takes to run the course.

(Technology)

Use the computer to create a Labyrinth

Newspaper Activity

The terrified prisoner was sentenced to two days in the Labyrinth helping Princess Ariadne tend the Minotaur. It appears that he felt the sentence was severe. Analyze several news stories and record the crime and subsequent penalty or punishment. Compare and discuss the difference between punishment and crime. Who establishes the punishment for crime?

Skill Builder

Before reading the chapter, record prior knowledge related to the title. Record predictions based on the title of the chapter.

AUTHOR'S NOTES

With any story, academic paper or even memo, the first task is to get the reader involved. The first paragraph lets us know there is danger and fear, the second brings in the concept of prisoners and punishment, and the third lets us know that Ariadne is a brave, matter-of-fact young girl. By the end of the chapter, we've also learned about the Magic Thread, and we've learned a great deal more about Ariadne's character. We've also learned how important it is to the government that the pattern of the labyrinth remain secret. And we know how terrifying the Minotaur is.

Chapter 1: Answer Key

Facts and Details:

1. The daughter of King Minos of Crete
2. A great stone maze
3. Half-bull, half-man monster -- son of King Minos
4. A spool of thread
5. A prisoner

Reading Comprehension:

1. She feels safe and says that the magic

thread has never put her in danger.

2. She is a caring person and wants to make the Labyrinth pleasant for the Minotaur.
3. The king does not want anyone to figure out the maze so he does not allow any of the helpers to enter the Labyrinth repeatedly.
4. The Minotaur relies on Ariadne to provide food and fresh water for him.
5. The prisoners that are sent to help Ariadne are non-violent, possibly smugglers or thieves.