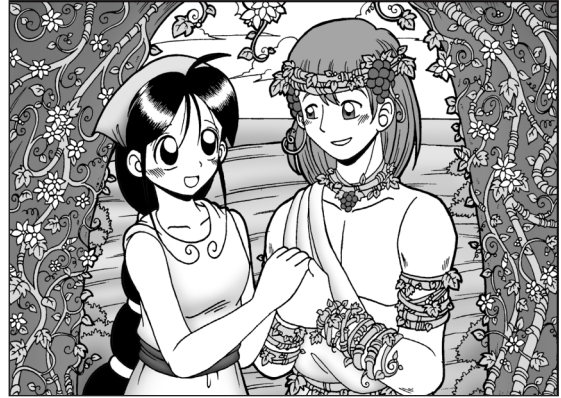


Chapter Fourteen: The Sailor



Vocabulary

nanny
kid
tart
disappointing
mourn
staggered
constellations

Facts and Details: Literal Meaning

1. Who or what does Ariadne find washed up on the beach?
2. What becomes of Theseus?
3. What did Theseus forget to do upon his arrival in Athens?
4. What happens to the Magic Thread?
5. What does Dionysius give to his queen, Ariadne?

What's Going On?: Reading Comprehension

1. Has Theseus changed throughout the story? Give an example of an action that is similar to past behavior. How has Ariadne changed through the story?
2. In what way are Ariadne and Theseus alike in respect to the relationship each had with his/her father? How are they different?
3. It is told that the thread hadn't moved in more than a year. What does that suggest about Ariadne?
4. How does Ariadne's time alone on the island contribute to the transformation of the thread?
5. What is the significance of Theseus' lie that the gods wanted Ariadne to stay on the island in terms of assuring that no one would ever come to rescue her? How is this related to the Labyrinth?

In your own words...

The thread helped lead Ariadne to a place in which she learned to listen to her heart and trust herself. What or who has helped you learn to listen and trust yourself to keep out of danger, to make the right decisions, to lead you to the right path?

Background and Additional Information

"History is written by the winners," it is said, and so is mythology. Dionysius represents the point where the old goddess religion of the Minoans was taken over by the Olympian gods of the Greeks, and his portrayal reflects it. The terms "Dionysian" or "Bacchanalia," (based on his Roman name, Bacchus), suggest drunken, debauched behavior. But Dionysius was not seen as negative by the people among whom he first appeared. Perhaps the more intellect-based Greeks reacted to him much as European explorers reacted to the fertility rituals and earthy humor they encountered in the South Pacific.

Multidisciplinary Connections

(English Language Arts)(Creative Writing Prompt)

Place several items in a brown paper bag. Have each student select an item and pretend it has washed up on a beach. Write an essay about where the item might have come from, whom it may have belonged to and develop a story using the 5 W's and How.

(Art)

Using black paper and white chalk, draw an illustration of the Corona Borealis (see Resource Page for star chart Web sites).

(Science)

It is easiest to see the constellations on a clear evening. Look in the newspaper for the weekly forecast and predict which evening you will have the best chance to see the stars.

Newspaper Activity

Dionysius makes Ariadne a queen. Write a news article describing the event. Use additional sources to research other gods that may attend the wedding. Based on your findings, describe the types of gifts Dionysius and Ariadne might receive from their honorable guests.

Skill Builder

Conduct a lesson on homonym and antonym. Have students select words from the chapter and list a homonym or antonym for each one.

AUTHOR'S NOTES

The myths don't say how long Ariadne stayed on Naxos or what she did there before Dionysius came. Rather than have her spend time raging against Theseus (as in Ovid's letter), I thought it more important that she set about rebuilding her life, free from both Theseus and her father, a pair of demanding figures she could never please. Once she stops crying and starts looking around, she finds she can take care of herself. In fact, she even puts the thread on a shelf. She no longer needs it. At that point, she's ready to be a queen, a wife, a hero.

Chapter 14: Answer Key

Facts and Details

1. A man who turns out to be a god, Dionysius
2. He became King
3. Raise white sails rather than black
4. It transforms into a sprouting green vine
5. A crown, the Corona Borealis

Reading Comprehension

1. Theseus doesn't appear to have changed much. One example is the lie he tells about why he left Ariadne on the island. She has become self-reliant, self-sufficient and mature.
2. Both characters wanted to please their respective fathers and both betrayed their

- father (Ariadne's decision to help Theseus; Theseus's forgotten promise to raise white sails). They differ in to what extent they will go to please their fathers.
3. Perhaps Ariadne relied more on herself than on the thread.
4. The thread is no longer needed because Ariadne learns to depend on herself while she is alone on the island.
5. Theseus knew the Greek people would not want to upset the gods and they certainly would not challenge something that had been ordered by them, especially since it was a god, Poseidon, that created the Minotaur