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Chapter Four: *The Prince*



Vocabulary

mob
genuinely

vault
steadily

Facts and Details: Literal Meaning

1. What talent does Theseus say that the girl with the light blue scarf possesses?
2. Who told Theseus that Princess Ariadne was good and decent?
3. What two sports does Theseus ask Ariadne about?
4. What does Theseus tell Ariadne he plans to do when placed in the Labyrinth?
5. What does Theseus ask Ariadne to do at the end of the chapter?

What's Going On?: Reading Comprehension

1. Why might Theseus tell Ariadne about specific individuals who are hostages?
2. Why doesn't Ariadne want to think about what Theseus says about the Greek hostages?
3. Is Theseus genuinely interested in bull-jumping and boxing?
4. What is Theseus mostly trying to accomplish by talking to the Princess?
5. Why does Theseus reveal to Ariadne that he does things even when his mother did not want him to? What might his intentions be as he makes this statement?

In your own words...

If you were Ariadne, how would you feel as Theseus is telling you personal details about the lives of those who are to be sacrificed to the Minotaur?

Background and Additional Information

Sports writing is the most stylized type of writing in the paper, and requires all the reporting skills of a news story and the color writing of a feature story.

Sports writers must do more than just report that an action took place; they must paint an image in readers' minds by using colorful language to define the degree of the action. To do that, sports writers use more active verbs, adjectives, alliteration and metaphors in their writing than traditional news or feature writers.

For instance, a baseball team that loses 21-0 didn't just lose -- they were "bombed" or "slaughtered." A hockey player doesn't shoot a puck; he "fires" it or "flips it" or "blasts" it. A baseball player doesn't hit a ball; he "tags it" or "knocks the cover off it" or "loops it" or "ropes it." A pitcher doesn't throw a ball on the outside corner of home plate; he "paints the corner."

Multidisciplinary Connections

(Social Studies)

This chapter involves a conversation between Theseus and Ariadne about bull-jumping. Theseus does not know much about the sport, possibly because it is not a part of his culture. Many people who have migrated to the United States have brought their ideas and ways of life with them. Think about some of the ideas, foods, sports and events that have been brought to America, and discuss the contributions of a variety of cultures.

Newspaper Activity

Theseus tries to talk to Ariadne about sports, particularly boxing and bull-jumping. Look in the sports section of the newspaper and discuss the style of writing used there. Clip headlines and words that are colorful and descriptive. Imagine a bull-jumping competition and write a sports story about it, using the clippings.

Skill Builder

Read the chapter aloud and have students write the dialogue between Theseus and Ariadne using quotations and correct punctuation.

AUTHOR'S NOTES

Theseus only has from the dock to the prison gates to make his case, and he pulls out all the stops. Knowing Ariadne is conflicted by the sacrifices (why else would she come to the dock each year?), he plays every card in his hand. He humanizes the hostages by giving them names and stories. He flatters her by telling her she is more mature than he expected, and by asking about her culture. At last, he simply begs for her help. And Ariadne? She doesn't want to hear what he has to say. That's a pretty good sign she doubts her moral position.

Chapter 4: Answer Key

Facts and Details

1. She is a great singer
2. The ship's crew
3. bull-jumping and boxing
4. kill the Minotaur
5. Help him

Reading Comprehension

1. Theseus is trying to make Ariadne feel sympathy for the hostages by telling her

- personal things about each of the individuals.
2. She didn't want to hear what he was saying because it made her feel bad.
3. We can't be sure, but it is a way for him to make conversation with Ariadne and find out if she is brave enough to help him.
4. He is trying to gain her trust and sympathy with flattery and personal conversation.
5. He may be trying to make Ariadne believe it is alright for her to go against her father's wishes.