“The Flight of Icarus”

Put a correct heading on your notebook paper!
Cast of Characters

**King Minos:** tyrant of Crete, enemy of Athens

**Theseus:** hero from Athens held captive by Minos. Daedalus helped him escape from the labyrinth on Crete

**Daedalus:** great Athenian architect who built the labyrinth on Crete

**Icarus:** Daedalus’s young son.
Vocabulary

generalizations: a general or broad statement based on the evidence

myth: stories that represent the deepest wishes and fears of human beings

labyrinth: maze

bade: to beg
Vocabulary

**mourned:** to grieve for something/someone lost

**exaltation:** state of extreme happiness

**ingenious:** intelligent in a clever or original way
Setting: Time & Place

A. Where does this story occur?

B. In what time period does the story occur?
Setting: Time & Place

A. a prison on the island of Crete, Greece.

B. ancient times
1. Who escaped from the labyrinth on Crete?
2. Who built the labyrinth on Crete?
3. Daedalus tried unsuccessfully to escape by bribing whom?
4. Who is with Daedalus in the prison?
5. How does Daedalus plan to escape?
Notes (p. 677) Answers

1. Theseus
2. Daedalus
3. bribing his way on board a leaving ship
4. his son, Icarus
5. by flying
Critical Thinking Question #1

If you were trapped on the island like Daedalus, how would you escape?

Rules:

1. You cannot use flying or flight as your escape.
2. Paragraph should have a topic sentence, 4-5 supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence.
3. Everything counts - punctuation, capitals, etc.
Notes (p. 677-678)

1. What does Daedalus build?
2. What materials does Daedalus use?
3. What does Icarus do while his dad is working?
4. How many pairs does Daedalus make?
Notes (p. 677-678) Answers

1. wings
2. feathers from the beach, wax, and thread
3. Played on the beach
4. 2 pairs - one for him and one for Icarus
Critical Thinking Question #2

You are building wings to escape MMS and can only use materials found in the school itself. What materials would you use and how would you build your wings?

Rule:

1. You cannot use feathers, wax, or thread.
2. You are limited to no more than 5 materials.
3. Everything counts!
1. What does Daedalus teach his son Icarus?
2. Daedalus watches Icarus with pride but also with what?
3. According to Daedalus, what have humans never done before?
4. What are Daedalus’s instructions to Icarus?
1. how to fly
2. “Misgivings” (concerns or worries)
3. flown
4. fly in the middle; if you fly too low the fog and spray will clog your wings; fly too high and the sun will melt the wax
Critical Thinking Question #3

Based on what you have read so far, do you believe that Icarus will be successful in his flying? Give at least two examples from the story (so far) that show why you think the way you do.

Rules

1. Examples must be quotes with page numbers.
2. Everything counts!
Notes (p. 678)

1. Icarus is described as looking like a what? (simile)
2. Why do the plowmen think Daedalus and Icarus are Gods?
1. Icarus looked like a lovely bird.
2. Because until that moment, only the Gods could fly high in the sky.
Generalization #1:

Based on what you’ve read so far, finish this sentence. Remember that generalizations DO NOT include details. Think BIG idea.

Fathers always...

Young boys always...
1. Why does Daedalus cry out in alarm?
2. Why could Daedalus not follow Icarus?
3. What “bewitched” Icarus?
4. What happens to Icarus because he isn’t paying attention?
5. What moral lesson can you learn from Icarus’s mistake?
1. Icarus was flying too high.
2. He weighed more and could not reach him.
3. the sense of freedom
4. He fly too close to the sun and it melts his wax. Icarus falls into the sea.
5. Answers may vary.
1. Daedalus was too late to do what?
2. The tips of Daedalus’s wings drag through the water as he carried his dead son. The narrator tells us the weight of the “double burden” brought him down. What two burdens does Daedalus carry?
3. What two geographical locations are named after Icarus?
1. Save Icarus from death
2. #1 is the physical burden of carrying Icarus’s body; #2 was the emotional burden of losing his son (and possibly his own guilt)
3. The body of water in which Icarus drowned and the land called Icaria where he is buried
1. Because of Icarus’s death, what two things does Daedalus no longer do?
2. Where did Daedalus build Apollo’s temple, and what did he offer to the gods?
3. What is the moral of the story if we’re looking at it from Daedalus’s perspective?
1. joy of flight and victory over air
2. Sicily; his wings, including several of Icarus’s feathers
3. Answers will vary.
Generalization #2:

Finish these sentences. Remember that generalizations DO NOT include details. Think BIG idea.

Losing a child is...

This myth seems to explain...
An aware writer knows how to write beautiful images. For example, “the tips of his [Daedalus’s] wings dragging in the water” is a powerful image because we can see exactly what Daedalus’s grief *looked* like (679). Find two more examples of powerful images, quote them, and explain what makes them powerful.

Rules: you cannot use my example or reason!
Short Essay (2-3 paragraphs)

P. 680 #7

Include the following:

1. An introduction sentence or two (State it)
2. Examples to support your reason (Illustrate (For example)/Explain (I think this because) several times)
3. A concluding sentence or two (Link it)