

APPLY

ANALYZE THE TEXT

Possible answers

- DOK 2:** Daedalus makes two sets of wings from melted wax and feathers. He intends that he and his son will use the wings to fly away from the island.
- DOK 3:** Textual evidence includes the following: "Daedalus watched him proudly but with misgivings"; "No human being has ever traveled through the air before"; "if you fly too low, the fog and spray will clog your wings, and if you fly too high, the heat will melt the wax that holds them together."
- DOK 3:** Both Daedalus and Icarus ignore their limitations and seek to be more than human. Daedalus is mature and careful, but Icarus is impulsive and caught up in the thrill of the moment. If you are going to do something that has never been tried before, you must be especially moderate.
- DOK 4:** Daedalus's original plan was to escape from the island. He succeeded at that goal, but "his victory over the air was bitter to him" because he had lost his son. This outcome suggests the theme "know your place"—don't soar too high or try to be like the gods.
- DOK 4:** The myth emphasizes the ideas of acting in moderation and of listening to someone who has authority over you. The "wiser" person could be the storyteller or the society that supports the story. Either way, the "words" encourage the audience to avoid extremes and to live in harmony with the culture's values.

RESEARCH

Remind students that they should confirm any information they find by checking multiple websites and assessing the credibility of each one. It may be helpful to bring in books on Greek mythology, so students can look up the myth of Theseus and the labyrinth.



RESPOND

ANALYZE THE TEXT

Support your responses with evidence from the text. NOTEBOOK

- Summarize** Reread paragraphs 3–4. Summarize in a few sentences what Daedalus does to help himself and his son escape from the island.
- Cite Evidence** What specific evidence in paragraph 5 suggests that Daedalus's plan will not go well?
- Compare** How are the actions of Daedalus and Icarus related to the idea of moderation in this myth? Explain how their actions are based on similarities and differences in their personalities and experiences.
- Synthesize** Reread paragraph 9. Keeping in mind Daedalus's original goal, do you think that he succeeded, or failed? What does your answer suggest about the Greeks' beliefs concerning their place in the world in relation to their gods?
- Notice & Note** "The Flight of Icarus" includes some specific wise words from a father to his son. How does this myth, as a whole, illustrate the idea of "Words of the Wiser"?

RESEARCH

The character of Daedalus appears in another famous Greek myth. In that story, he designed and constructed a labyrinth, or maze, in which a monster was kept as a prisoner. The monster would find and kill people who were sent into the labyrinth as a form of punishment. Use the questions below to analyze the themes of this myth.

QUESTION	ANSWER
Who are the characters in the myth about Daedalus and the labyrinth?	Daedalus, King Minos, Ariadne, Theseus, and the Minotaur
What problem must the main character solve?	Theseus must enter the labyrinth, kill the Minotaur, and then find his way out of the labyrinth.
How does the main character's solution reflect some of the same themes that appear in "The Flight of Icarus"?	Theseus, like Daedalus, is smart and brave. His ingenious solution involves simple materials.

Extend Find out how the design of the labyrinth inspired actual maze-like structures or how it was used in other stories.