

Theseus and the Minotaur



Answers Sheet

1. Definitions from the University of Cambridge Advanced Learners Dictionary

Constellation (n) any of the groups of stars in the sky that seem from earth to form a pattern and have been given names.

Consort (n) a wife or husband, especially of a ruler. (N.B. Consort is also a verb but that is NOT the definition required here.)

Fate (n) a. What happens to a particular person or thing, especially something final or negative, such as death or defeat (for example: His fate is now in the hands of the jury). b. A power that some people believe causes and controls all events, so that you cannot change or control the way things will happen.

Labyrinth (n) a confusing set of connecting passages or paths in which it is easy to get lost.

Quayside (n) the edge of a long structure, usually built of stone, where boats can be tied up to take on and off their goods.

Pall (n) a thick, dark cloud of smoke.

Unfurl (v) become open from a rolled position, and if you unfurl a flag, sail, banner etc., you make it do this.

2. Identifying the punctuation

What are the punctuation marks used in these sentences from the story and why have they been used?

- a) **King Minos lifted his arm and pointed: 'He will be the seventh.'**

Colon (:) to indicate the second sentence explains the first (i.e. who Mino was pointing at) and **inverted commas** ('...') to indicate speech.

- b) **Then he rounded a bend and saw it – the human body, the great bull head: The Minotaur.**

Dash (-) to create a dramatic pause and to show that the second clause explains the first (i.e. what Theseus saw)

Comma (,) to indicate items in a list

Colon to show the clauses are related – the second explains the first.

- c) **They ate; they talked; they laughed; they danced in the firelight.**

Semicolons (;) to show related clauses in a list

3. Active to Passive

- a) Rewrite the following sentence in the **passive** voice:

King Minos entertained his guests. (Active)

The guests were entertained by King Minos. (Passive)

- b) Rewrite the following sentence in the **active** voice

The Minotaur was kept in a maze of tunnels. (Passive)

King Minos kept the Minotaur in a maze of tunnels.

- c) What difference does changing the sentence structure make to our understanding?

In the first example, writing the sentence in the active voice emphasises the status of King Minos. If written in the passive voice, the guests are given priority of importance.

In the second example, writing the sentence in the passive voice removes the allocation of responsibility: it's no one's fault the Minotaur is kept in the labyrinth – it's just the way it is – a subtle but very significant change in meaning.