

Icarus' Flight

Ancient Greek

Icarus and his father, Daedalus, were in prison in the Labyrinth because King Minos was angry with Daedalus.

Icarus hated being in prison. He grew thinner and lost interest in life. One day, Daedalus saw an eagle, which gave him an idea for how to escape.

Daedalus made two pairs of wings. The wings were made with wooden frames. Daedalus attached feathers to the frames using wax, which was unfortunate. The wings had leather straps on the back so they could be attached to their arms.

When the wings were finished, Daedalus and Icarus crept up onto the roof. Just before they set off, Daedalus warned his son not to fly too high.

Unfortunately, Icarus did not listen. He enjoyed flying so much that he flew too close to the sun. The wax melted, the feathers fell off and Icarus plunged to his death in the sea below.

1. Why was Icarus unhappy and did he do as a result?

2. What gave Daedalus an idea, and what was the idea?

3. Why do you think they went to the roof of the palace to begin their journey?

4. What do you think Daedalus felt and wished when he saw what his son was doing?
