**Chapter 2: Roman myth**

What is a myth? Do you know how it differs from legend?

****Do you know any Welsh myths? Do you know any Roman myths?

 Can you find Greece and Crete on the map of the world?

**Acting out: Theseus and the Minotaur**

Once upon a time, there was a **fortis** but **horribilis** **rex** called Minos. He was **rex** of the island Crete and everyone who lived there was **timidus** of him. But **rex** Minos had a problem: ‘I am strong, but I am also **timidus**. I fear the monster that lives in my palace: the **Minotaurus**. The **Minotaurus** is half **taurus**, half man. Therefore I have built a **labyrinthus** to stop him from escaping.’

His **milites** said: ‘But how will you stop the **Minotaurus**? He **edit** people. How can we be sure that he will stay in the **labyrinthus**?’

Minos replied: ‘I will tell the **urbs** of Athens they have to give me seven boys and seven girls every **annus**. We will shut them up in the **labyrinthus** until the **Minotaurus** **edit** them all.’

And so, each **annus** the **urbs** of Athens sent seven boys and seven girls to Crete, so the monstrous **Minotaurus edit** them. It was a **horribilis** time, and everyone in the **urbs** of Athens was very **tristis**.

One day, a young hero arrived in the **urbs** of Athens. His name was Theseus and he was very **fortis**. He saw seven boys and girls being brought to a **navis** and **audit** them crying. He **interrogat**: ‘What is going on?’

The boys and girls said: ‘We are being brought to the **Minotaurus**. He **edit** us. Please save us! We are **timidus**.’

And so Theseus took the place of one of the boys and told the people of Athens: ‘Don’t be **tristis**. I will return with the children!’

So the **navis** **navigat** to Crete, and king Minos was waiting for them when they arrived. He **ridet** and said: ‘You are so young and bony, you hardly look like a tasty meal for the **Minotaurus**. Who will go in first?’ They could hear the **Minotaurus** roaring in the **labyrinthus**.

Theseus stepped forward: ‘I will go first. **Sum** prince Theseus of Athens and I am not **timidus** of the **Minotaurus**.’
While Theseus went into the **labyrinthus**, king Minos watched. Behind him stood his **filia**, Ariadne. She immediately **amat** the **fortis** hero, Theseus, and decided to help him. She whispered as he went in: ‘Theseus, take this **corda** and tie it to the entrance of the **labyrinthus**. When you have killed the **Minotaurus**, this **corda** will guide you back there.’ He **ridet** and said: ‘Thank you.’

As Theseus walked into the **labyrinthus**, he **audit** lots of animals. First, he thought he **audit** a **leo**, then a **canis**, a **serpens**, a **mus**, a **gattus**, or was that an **equus**? They all seemed to shout: ‘Don’t go on! Turn back!’ It was pretty scary in the dark, smelly, **horribilis** **labyrinthus**. But then **audit** the worst noise of all: that of a raging **taurus**!

Suddenly, the **Minotaurus** roars: ‘I will eat you now, Theseus!’ The hero was picked up between the Minotaur’s horns and tossed into the air, then thrown onto the **terra**. But Theseus grabbed the Minotaur’s horns and kept twisting his head. Suddenly he tugged it, and the **terribilis** creature died lying on the **terra**.

The hero took the **corda** and was led safely back to the entrance. The **milites** and the children shouted: ‘Theseus is **fortis**! You are our hero!’

Ariadne stood there too: ‘Please take me back to Athens with you. **Sum** **timida**. My father will kill me when **audit** that I have helped you.’

Theseus and the children replied: ‘Of course we will take you!’ And so Theseus **navigat** with the others to the **urbs** of Athens. The people from Crete were very happy that the **Minotaurus** was dead, apart of course from **terribilis rex** Minos.

**Exercise 1: Fill in the gaps with Latin words you think are suitable**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was admired and loved by all citizens.
2. It is said that the labyrinth was the home of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The commander ordered the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to retreat.
4. The captain brought the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ inside the port.
5. It is said that the mighty Theseus killed the Minotaur in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. It was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ accident. Many people were injured.
7. The brave soldier raised his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to defend himself from the enemy.
8. The beautiful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was captured by the Minotaur.
9. The little boy is so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and hides himself inside the closet.
10. The prisoner was tied up with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Exercise 2: Connect the Latin words with their English translation.**

Can you give any English words that come from the Latin word?

Can you use the English words in a sentence?

Are the words verbs (V), nouns (N), or adjectives (A)?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Latin word** | **English translation** | **Related English word** | **Verb, noun, or adjective?** |
| Amat |  |  |  |
| Annus |  | Annual |  |
| Audit |  |  |  |
| Canis | Dog  |  |  |
| Corda |  |  |  |
| Edit |  |  |  |
| Equus |  |  |  |
| Filia |  | Filial  |  |
| Fortis |  |  | A |
| Gattus |  |  |  |
| Horribilis |  |  |  |
| Interrogat |  |  |  |
| Labyrinthus |  |  |  |
| Leo |  |  |  |
| Milites |  |  |  |
| Minotaurus – Taurus |  |  |  |
| Mus |  |  |  |
| Navigat | Navigate  |  | V |
| Navis |  |  |  |
| Rex |  |  |  |
| Ridet |  |  |  |
| Serpens |  |  |  |
| Sum  | I am |  |  |
| Terra |  | Extra-terrestrial  |  |
| Timidus |  |  |  |
| Tristis |  |  |  |
| Urbs |  |  | N |

**Exercise 3: Make your own myth, using some of the Latin words on the previous page.**



**Exercise 4: Colour the words in the right colours**

**This song can be sung to the tune of ‘what does the fox say?’**

Noun/adjectives: subject and object

verbs: I (first person = ends on -o) and he (third person = ends on -t)

**Rex tristis amat filiam.**

**Audit me: timidus est.**

**Navigat Theseus**

**in terram: firmus est.**

**Theseus vidit filiam**

**et filiam amat.**

**Theseum firmum edo:**

**SUM MINOTAURUS!**

**Sum tristis: amo filiam.**

**Audio te: timidus sum.**

**Navigo, Theseus,**

**in Cretam: firmus sum.**

**Puellam bellam video**

**et puellam amo.**

**Minotaurum audio:**

**TAURUM NECABO!**

**Sum Minotaurus!**

**Listen to the song and fill in the gaps.**

Rex tristis amat filiam. Audit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: timidus est.

Navigat Theseus in terram: firmus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Theseus vidit filiam et \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ amat.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ firmum edo: SUM MINOTAURUS!

Sum \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: amo filiam. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ te: timidus sum.

Navigo, Theseus, in Cretam: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sum.

Puellam bellam video et \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ amo.

Minotaurum \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: TAURUM NECABO!

**Link the Latin word with an English word that is based on the Latin.**

**Latin word English word from Latin Meaning of Latin word**

timidus firm I hear

navigat audio-visual I love

terram navy He sails

firmus amorous afraid

vidit timid I eat

amo edible strong

edo extra-terrestrial land, earth

audio view He sees