



A Lesson on A Proud Flight by Timothy Broere

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Myths, Icarus, A Proud Flight

Lesson Description: Students will be relying upon their reading and writing skills that they've been developing since the beginning of the school year to learn about the story of Icarus and his father. They will then take this new-found knowledge in answering thought provoking questions about the text, and finally to write a myth of their own.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3a: Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

A Proud Flight

by

Content: Long ago, people looked to the sky and saw birds fly. They wondered if there was a way they could fly like birds. People made up myths about flying. A myth is a story that has imaginary people and places in it.

A myth that people in Greece made up was about a young man. The young man was called Icarus. In the story, he and his father, Daedalus, were imprisoned by an evil man. They were kept on an island. They could not escape because there were high walls. The island was surrounded by water.

His father was an inventor. He invented wings made from bird feathers. He used wax to get them to stick to a frame shaped like a wing. They would use the wings to escape.

Because they were made with wax, the wings could melt if they got hot. So Daedalus warned his son not to fly close to the sun. At that time, which was hundreds of years ago, people did not know how very far away the sun is. The story comes from Greece, where the sun feels very hot in summer.

You probably guessed what happened next. Daedalus and Icarus used the wings to escape. They flew over the walls. They flew away from the island. They were flying across the sea.

But Icarus forgot what his father had warned him about. He forgot to stay away from the sun. There were no clouds. The sun shone brightly. It melted the wax. The feathers fell off the wings. They would no longer support him in the air. So he fell to the sea.

Daedalus was sad to see his son fall into the sea. But he could not help him. He knew this could happen. That was why he had tried to tell his son how dangerous it was to fly close to the sun.

In Greece, many times people told myths to educate other people. There were three lessons to learn from this myth. First, you should listen to your parents. Second, you should not take dangerous chances. What is the third lesson? That is for you to figure out.

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Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: Myth **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: People made up myths about flying. What does the word "myth" mean in this sentence?

- A: something based on fact
- B: a story with imaginary people and places
- C: inventions
- D: people

Question: Which one of the following sentences using the word "myths" correctly?

- A: I used my myths to solve the problem.
 - B: Myths are fact based stories.
 - C: I heard the noise from the myths as it powered on.
 - D: Ancient civilizations made up the myths we hear about today.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: imprisoned **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story, he and his father, Daedelus, were imprisoned by an evil man. What does the word "imprisoned" mean in this sentence?

- A: hurt
- B: made friends with
- C: kept captive
- D: made fun of

Question: In which of the following sentences is the word "imprisoned" used correctly?

- A: He imprisoned the man for his crimes.
 - B: I made the imprisoned cake and stuck it in the oven.
 - C: My teacher imprisoned our math lesson and then we went outside for recess.
 - D: Imprisoned flags flew high in the sky.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: surrounded. **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The island was surrounded by water. What does the word "surrounded" mean in this sentence?

- A: covered with
- B: be all around (something or someone)
- C: eaten
- D: used

Question: In which sentence is the word "surrounded" used correctly?

- A: I was surrounded by a lot of animals.
 - B: I surrounded my cellphone to my teacher when she caught me using it during class.
 - C: I used my surrounded sense of style to make sense of the situation.
 - D: Surrounded sounds came from the speaker.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Inventor. **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: His father was an inventor. What does the word "inventor" mean?

- A: a writer
- B: a student
- C: a teacher
- D: someone who makes or creates new things

Question: In which of the following sentences is the word "inventor" used correctly?

- A: The inventor made a brand new machine that can make pigs fly!
 - B: Inventors are people who make things someone else has already.
 - C: Inventors are myths.
 - D: Inventors are people who tell stories.
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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Lessons from the myth

What do you think the third lesson is that you should learn from Icarus' story?

2 - Inventions

Do you think Daedalus could have invented something else that would have helped him and his son get over the wall?

What else do you think he could have invented?

3 - What if...

What if Icarus had lived? What do you think his father and him would be doing right now?

4 - Why does Daedalus...

Why does Daedalus make wings for him and his son?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Taking what you learned about myths, construct your own myth. Be creative! Your myth must be at least 3 paragraphs long and include 2 life lessons like you found in Incarus' story (i.e. You should always do your homework, you should listen to your parents, etc) Carefully consider: Who will be the hero of your story? Where will your story take place??

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