



ICARUS
WAS
RIDICULOUS



Characters in
ICARUS WAS RIDICULOUS,
in order of appearance:

KING MINOS OF CRETE, an odd man

A GARDENER

A COOK

SOME GUARDS

DAEDALUS, an inventor from Athens

ICARUS, his son

THE MINOTAUR, part-man, part-bull

THESEUS, a prisoner

A TOUR GUIDE at the British Museum



One time, our class was in a **HOTEL** having our **BREAKFAST** because we were on a **SCHOOL TRIP**.

And our teacher, Miss Jones, looked



and she kept counting everyone's **HEADS** and looking at her **WATCH** and asking everyone **OVER** and **OVER** if they needed to go to the toilet.

So me and Jodi and Maisie all went to the toilet and when we came back Zach was still sitting there and he'd got **ANOTHER** cup



of tea because it was a **HELP YOURSELF BUFFET**.

That's when Miss Jones came over and looked at all the **TEA CUPS** and asked if he needed to go to the toilet and Zach said no. But Miss Jones said that he should **GO ANYWAY** and that he should go **NOW** and that we were leaving in **EXACTLY SIX MINUTES**. So Zach said that he would but then as soon as Miss Jones left he just started drinking his tea again.

I asked Zach if he was going to go to the toilet like Miss Jones said he should and he said he wasn't and that he was going to get

another cup of tea instead.

So that's when I said that he was being **JUST** like **ICARUS** and that **ICARUS** never listened to anyone **EITHER**.

But Zach just stared at me and said, "Who's Icabus?"



So I said that Icarus wasn't anybody but that **ICARUS** was a boy from **ANCIENT GREECE** who went to visit **CRETE** with his dad and never came home because of **KING MINOS** and all the **PIGEON FEATHERS** and **NOT LISTENING TO PEOPLE**.

But Zach said that he still didn't know who I was talking about. So that's when I explained that King Minos of Crete was really **HORRIBLE** and that when he was just a prince he liked to do things like catch **FLIES** in bottles and throw **MUD PIES** in people's windows and cut people's **HAIR** without asking. And no one ever stood up to



him because they were too scared that he'd shave off their **EYEBROWS** when they were sleeping because that's what he did to his teacher when he wasn't allowed to write on the board.

Then when Minos became **KING** he said that he wanted a **TOWER** built next to his house and that he was going to use it as a **PRISON** because he thought it would be fun to have some prisoners in a tower because that's just the type of person he was.

As soon as the tower was finished, King Minos was **DESPERATE** to get his prisoners so he **STORMED** around the palace

looking for someone to do something that **ANNOYED** him so that he could shout, "RIGHT. That annoyed me so **YOU** are going to be my first **PRISONER!**"

But **EVERYONE** who worked in the palace was on their **BEST BEHAVIOUR** because they could just **TELL** that Minos

was looking for trouble by his **FACE** and the way he was **WALKING** and also because he was wearing his "I'M **THE BOSS**" T-shirt over his toga which is



what he **ALWAYS** did when he was looking for a fight.

So all of his servants and gardeners and hairdressers tried to stay out of his way and do their best work

EVER.

But then Minos started **STARING** at everyone and stressing them out and that's when the gardener accidentally cut off one of his **FINGERS**. And he didn't scream or faint or **ANYTHING**. He just kept smiling because he didn't want King Minos to get

annoyed at him for dripping blood on his daffodils.

But then someone **SNEEZED** and King Minos **WHIPPED** his head around, really fast, and shouted, "**WHO WAS THAT?!**"

Everyone **FROZE** and didn't say anything and it sort of looked like they were playing **MUSICAL STATUES** except that people who are playing musical statues don't usually have tears rolling down their faces.

And then someone sneezed **AGAIN** and King Minos saw that it was his **COOK**. So that's when Minos said that the first sneeze had annoyed him but that the **SECOND**

SNEEZE had made him **FURIOUS** and that the cook was now his prisoner

FOR LIFE.

And Minos was actually really pleased that it had been his cook who did the sneezing because his chips-and-cheese hadn't been **CHEESY** enough recently.

Then, King Minos pointed to one of his guards and told him to bring him a man called **DANDELION** because he'd heard that he was the best **INVENTOR** in all of **ANCIENT GREECE**.



But the guard just **STARED** at Minos because he'd never **HEARD** of a man called



DANDELION before and he wasn't even sure that that was a **NAME**.

And that's when one of the other guards cleared his throat and said, "Do you mean **DAEDALUS**, Your Royal Majesty, Highest King of All the World and Universe for Ever and Ever?" (That was what Minos liked to be called.) And King Minos said yes and that he

didn't **CARE** what the man was called and that he just wanted to see him



So the guards went and got Daedalus and they had to go quite far actually because Daedalus didn't even live in Crete like they did. He lived in a place called **ATHENS**.

But when Daedalus finally arrived, King Minos said, "Who's **THAT?**" because Daedalus had brought his son **ICARUS** with him and that **REALLY ANNOYED** King Minos because he knew he was going

to have to let them use his **BUNK BEDS** and that was where he liked to keep all his **HEADLESS TEDDIES**.

Daedalus gave Icarus a **NUDGE** because he was looking down at his sandals and not speaking to anyone because he was a **TEENAGER**.

So Icarus did a really long **SIGH** and then he lifted up his head and looked at King Minos and said, "Hey."

But King Minos didn't say "Hey" back. He just kept on brushing his hair.

And then he said, "Listen, Dandelion."

So Daedalus looked at the guards to see

if he should correct the king about his name but they just shook their heads really fast so he didn't say anything.

Then Minos said, "I need you to make me a **MAZE** to make sure my prisoners can't escape from my **PRISON** and it better be a **GOOD ONE** or I'll shave off your eyebrows and



A hand-drawn illustration of the words "EAT THEM!" in a simple, blocky font. The word "EAT" is on the top line and "THEM!" is on the bottom line. The text is underlined with two parallel horizontal lines. Four stars are scattered around the text, with short lines connecting them to the words. The entire illustration is centered on the page.

And Daedalus gasped because he'd

heard the story about Minos shaving off his teacher's eyebrows but he didn't realise that he'd actually

EATEN THEM TOO!

Minos said that he wanted Daedalus to design him an **UNDERGROUND MAZE** to go under his **HUGE TOWER**.

That's when Icarus flicked the hair out of his eyes and said, "What for?"

And King Minos got a **WICKED LOOK** in his eye and he said, "It's a **PRISON**.

Just a **NORMAL** prison for my



NORMAL prisoners."

But then he laughed a bit and Icarus looked up at his dad because it was obvious that it **WASN'T** a normal prison and that King Minos was **HIDING SOMETHING**.

Then Minos said that it was time for his tea so Daedalus and Icarus went to leave but Minos said, "No. Stay."

So Daedalus and Icarus sat down at the table with King Minos and put napkins on their laps because they thought they were about to get something to eat. But they didn't. So they just had to sit and watch Minos eat his soup.

And then when someone brought Minos his second course and he saw that his beans were **TOUCHING** his chicken goujons he went



And that's when Icarus whispered to his dad that he'd better get the maze right and Daedalus nodded loads.

Then that night before they went to sleep, King Minos came in and took their **PILLOWS** because he said that he needed them **ALL**.

And then he counted every single one of his **HEADLESS TEDDIES** and gave them all a kiss goodnight and said that if either of them even **LOOKED** at his teddies there would be **CONSEQUENCES**.





But Icarus couldn't sleep because he said that he **NEEDED** a pillow and that it felt **HORRIBLE** without one and that he wanted to use the **HEADLESS TEDDIES** to make one. But Daedalus said **NO** and that King Minos would probably shave the eyebrows off **BOTH** of them if he found out.

So Icarus shouted, "**FINE!**" And then he just waited until his dad fell asleep and did it anyway.

The next day, Daedalus got to work designing the maze. And he was **DETERMINED** to make it the most difficult maze in the whole of **ANCIENT GREECE**.

So he made sure there were hundreds of **CORRIDORS** and **DEAD ENDS** and he even designed a **QUADRUPLE LOCK** for the room at the very top of the **TOWER**.

But then when it was the

GRAND OPENING

of the new prison, Daedalus found out that King Minos had put a **MINOTAUR** inside the maze. And that's when he said that he didn't want anything to do with the maze any more because he knew that **MINOTAURS** were **MONSTERS** that looked like **HUMAN**



BULLS and that they ate HUMAN FLESH and he thought that that was going a bit too far.

So Daedalus told Icarus it was time to go and pack his suitcase and that they were going back to Athens. But Icarus just IGNORED him because he was having a



GREAT
TIME

at the grand opening because there was CANDY FLOSS and a BAND and a giant

piñata shaped like a MINOTAUR.

So Daedalus had to pack BOTH of their suitcases. And then he had to stand and wait until the band finished playing their very last song before Icarus would leave.

But then when they went to see King Minos to say goodbye and get Daedalus's money, King Minos said that he wasn't going to pay him and also that he wasn't going to let him LEAVE, either, because he wanted Daedalus to make him loads of other stuff. Like a hairbrush with bristles on BOTH SIDES and slippers with WHEELS on them so he could have comfy feet while he skated



around the palace. And a really long stick with a **FAKE FINGER** on the end that he could use to **POKE** his servants when they didn't bring his **KEBABS** fast enough.

But then, Theseus, one of King Minos's prisoners, killed the Minotaur and **ESCAPED**. And that's when the king said that it must have been **DAEDALUS** who helped him escape because **HE** was the only one who knew how the maze **WORKED**.

And it **WAS** Daedalus who had helped him because he thought having a **MINOTAUR** in there was **UNFAIR** so he gave Theseus's girlfriend, Ariadne, a ball of string for Theseus

and Theseus used it to help him escape the maze. So Daedalus just looked down at his sandals and didn't say anything.

That's when King Minos said that he was **FURIOUS** because the prison was practically **EMPTY** and that because of Daedalus he didn't even have a proper number of **PRISONERS** for it any more.

But then all of a sudden King Minos started brushing his hair **REALLY SLOWLY**. And then he said, "Or **DO I??**"

And then he said that he was going to lock **DAEDALUS** in the tower and that he was going to be his newest **PRISONER**





FOR LIFE.

But then Icarus said, "That's not **FAIR!**" because that was Icarus's favourite thing to say and also because he didn't know who was going to give him his **POCKET MONEY** if his dad wasn't around.

But Minos said that it **WAS** fair, actually, because he needed a new prisoner for his prison and it was his dad's fault that **THESEUS** had escaped.

So then Icarus **ROLLED HIS EYES** and everyone



because they all knew that Minos **HATED** people rolling their eyes because he had a **FEAR OF EYEBALLS** and he hated seeing them roll about in people's **EYE SOCKETS** like that.

So that's when Minos yelled, "**NOW I HAVE TWO NEW PRISONERS!**"

And then he did a **REALLY LOUD LAUGH** while his guards took Daedalus and Icarus away and even when they were all the way at the top of the tower they could **STILL** hear Minos laughing below. That's how evil he was.

So Daedalus and Icarus were trapped in



the tower and they didn't even have any games or books so they just had to take turns playing with a bit of wallpaper that had fallen off the wall.

But then one day Daedalus's eyes went **WIDE** and he said, "I've got a

BRILLIANT PLAN.

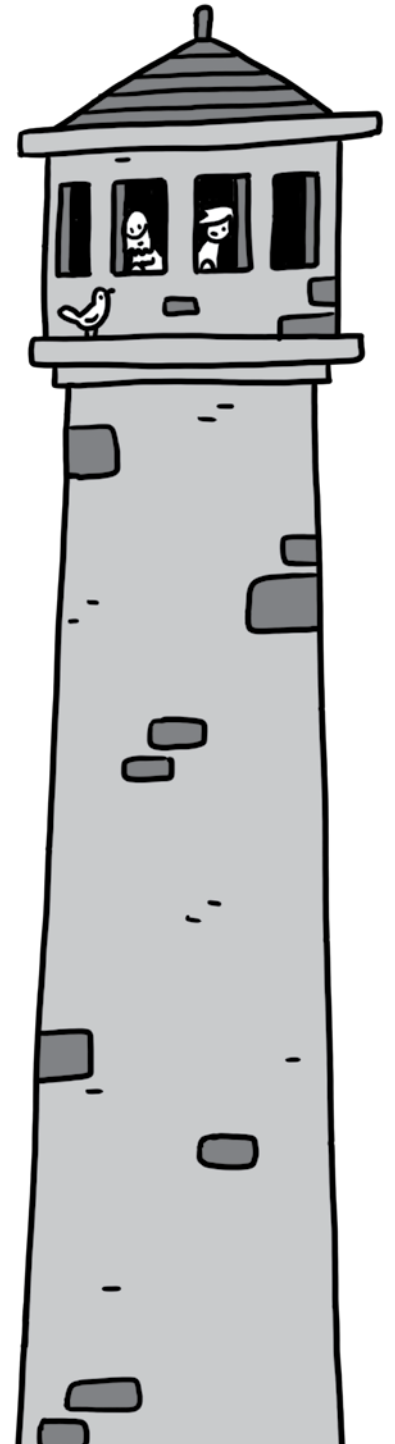
"I'm going to get us out of here!"

And then he ran over to the window and began **COOING** at the pigeons.

That's when Icarus started worrying that being trapped in the tower was making his

dad go a bit **WEIRD** (especially when a pigeon landed on the window ledge and Daedalus started **SPEAKING** to it and asking it for one of its **FEATHERS**).

So Icarus went over and patted his dad's back and said that he could have **TWO TURNS** at playing with the piece of



wallpaper if he wanted because he felt sorry for him.

But then the pigeon flew away and left a **FEATHER** behind and Daedalus **GASPED** and held it up to Icarus's face and said, "**LOOK!** This is my **PLAN!**"

And Icarus said that if his dad's plan was to **TICKLE** the guards to make them open the door, he wasn't going to be the one doing the tickling.

But Daedalus said they weren't going to be tickling **ANYONE**. Except maybe **THEMSELVES** by mistake when they were **FLYING** with the **WINGS** he was going to



make for them!

And that's when Icarus **GASPED** and Daedalus gasped **TOO** because even though it was his plan he was still a bit **SHOCKED** at how good it was.

So every day when the guards brought them their lunch, Daedalus said that they should only eat **HALF** of it and leave the **OTHER HALF** on the window ledge so that loads of **PIGEONS** and **SEAGULLS** would come and leave their **FEATHERS** behind.

But Icarus didn't listen. And every single day he ate his **WHOLE LUNCH** and he didn't even leave a **TINY CRUMB** for

the birds because he said that he was **STARVING** and also that **MINI KEBABS** were his **FAVOURITE**.

So it took **AGES** to get all the feathers that Daedalus needed to make the **WINGS** and at one point Daedalus told Icarus that if he didn't start sharing his lunch with the birds he would just make **ONE** pair of wings. And then he gave Icarus a bit of a

LOOK

and Icarus **GROANED** and threw a tiny bit of kebab on to the window ledge and said,



"Happy now?"

But Daedalus **WASN'T** happy now because he still needed **LOADS** of feathers and he knew that it was going to take **YEARS** if Icarus wasn't going to help.

So that was when he said that if Icarus started sharing his lunch then when they got back to Athens he'd let him have a **HOUSE PARTY**.

And Icarus's eyes went **WIDE** and he said, "With pizza?"

And Daedalus said, "Yes."

And Icarus said, "And mini kebabs?"

And Daedalus said, "Yes."



And then Icarus said, "And you'll stay in your bedroom all night and not come out once, even if you need the toilet?"

And Daedalus sighed because it was really hard having a teenager sometimes, especially one like Icarus who wouldn't even give you a bit of his kebab so you could help save his life or let you go to the toilet in your own house.

But Daedalus said yes anyway because he really wanted to get out of the tower.

After a

WHOLE YEAR

Daedalus **FINALLY** had enough feathers so he waited until Icarus and all the guards were asleep and then he stayed up all night making the wings.

Then Daedalus put on his wings and flapped them in Icarus's face to wake him up. And Icarus was **FURIOUS** when he woke up but then he saw that his dad had a **HUGE** grin on his face and also that he was **WEARING WINGS**.

Icarus leapt out of bed and put his wings on and said he wanted to leave **RIGHT AWAY**. But Daedalus said that he needed to **WAIT** and **LISTEN TO HIM CLOSELY**

about the wings and how he had used **WAX** to stick them together and how that meant they couldn't fly too close to the **SUN** or the wax would **MELT**.

And Icarus nodded loads and said, "Uh huh. Uh huh. Let's go!" and then he **JUMPED** out of the window.



And that just shows you how **RIDICULOUS** Icarus was because his dad hadn't even told him how to **USE** the wings yet!

So Daedalus had to jump out after him and yell, "**FLAP YOUR WINGS, FOR GOODNESS' SAKE!**"

Daedalus was **SURE** Icarus was going to





land **HEAD FIRST** on the ground when suddenly a big **GUST OF WIND** caught Icarus's wings and lifted him up into the air.

That's when Icarus began flapping his wings and flying all over the place. And Daedalus had to shout at him that they were supposed to be **ESCAPING** but he only listened when one of the guards spotted them and shouted, "**GET ME MY SLINGSHOT!**"

So that's when Daedalus and Icarus flew away from the palace and away from **CRETE** and out over the **AEGEAN SEA**.

But then Icarus started flying a bit **HIGH** even though his dad had **SPECIFICALLY**

told him not to.

So Daedalus shouted, "Icarus! **WHAT** did I tell you?!"

And if Icarus was **EVER** going to listen to his dad then **THAT** would have been a good time to start. But he didn't. Because he'd spotted a **GIRL** with **LONG HAIR** swimming in the water and he wanted to **IMPRESS** her. (Even though it obviously **WASN'T** a girl and it was just a bit of seaweed on a rock.) But Icarus didn't know that. And that's probably because he never listened to his dad **OR** his teachers **OR** his archery instructor about getting his



EYES TESTED.

So anyway, that's when Icarus started showing off

BIG TIME.

And he kept **WINKING** at the seaweed and flying upside down, and he even did a **TWIRLY THING.**



And then he started to fly **HIGHER** and **HIGHER** and Daedalus shouted, "**ICARUS! STOP!**"

But Icarus didn't listen. He just kept flying higher until his **ARMS** started to feel a bit **WET**. And at first Icarus thought it was **SWEAT** so he tried to wipe it off because he didn't want to get sweat on his toga in front of the girl with the long hair.

But then Icarus **GASPED** because he realised that it **WASN'T** sweat and that it was **WAX** and also that his **WINGS WERE MELTING.**

And **THAT'S** when he remembered what

his dad had said about not flying too close to the **SUN**. But it was too late by then.

And as Icarus fell from the sky he got closer and closer to the **SEAWEED ROCK** and even though he was **FALLING TO HIS DEATH** he still shouted, "**HEY,**" at the rock before he hit the water because he wanted to look cool and also because that's how bad his eyesight was.

So that's when I looked at Zach and Zach looked really shocked by the sad ending and I said, "So ... do you want to listen to Miss Jones now?"

And Zach said that he did. And also that he



thought he might need glasses. And Maisie said that he should get his eyes tested **RIGHT AWAY** so that he didn't **FALL TO HIS DEATH** in the playground and Zach nodded loads.

So that's when he put up his hand and told Miss Jones that he needed to go to the toilet and Miss Jones shut her eyes and took a really deep breath through her nose for ages. And then when she was finished with her breath she opened her eyes and said, "Go. Quickly."

So Zach ran off to the toilet and Miss Jones looked at her watch and **ROLLED HER**

EYES and Maisie gasped and said, "Miss! You shouldn't roll your eyes. Some people might feed you to a MINOTAUR for doing that!"

Miss Jones looked a bit confused so she must not have known the MYTH. Then when Zack got back she made us walk for AGES until we eventually turned a corner and she yelled, "We're here! We made it!"

And we all looked up and

GASPED

because we were in front of a HUGE

BUILDING and it had STONE PILLARS and LOADS of BIG STEPS and

EVERYTHING.

That's when Jodi nudged me and said that it looked a bit like Ancient Greece and I nodded loads because it DID.

And then all of a sudden a TOUR GUIDE appeared and she said, "Welcome to the BRITISH MUSEUM!"

And before she could even say one more word we asked her if there was a bit about ANCIENT GREECE in the museum and

she said that there **WAS** so we said that we needed her to take us there first and that made her laugh even though we weren't joking.

But then Maisie asked if there would be any **MINOTAURS** inside and the tour guide said, "Well, you'll just have to wait and find out, won't you?"



And we all **GASPED**.

