



Extract 3

Theseus and the Minotaur

<p>King Minos of Crete had long hated the people of Athens,</p>	<p>for they had killed his son when he took all the prizes at the Athenian games.</p>	<p>To prevent King Minos from waging war against them,</p>	
<p>every nine years, the Athenians sent seven youths and maidens to be sacrificed to</p>	<p>the Minotaur – half-man, half-bull – which lived in the Labyrinth on Crete.</p>	<p>Theseus, son of King Aegeus, was angered by this cruelty.</p>	
<p>Bravely, he offered to join the next victims and try to kill the Minotaur.</p>	<p>His father begged him not to go with the others,</p>	<p>but Theseus insisted, and prepared to sail for Crete.</p>	
<p>He hoisted a black sail as a sign of respect for the victims, but promised to return with a white sail raised, as a sign of his success.</p>			