

Knowledge Organiser – Shadow of the Minotaur by Alan Gibbons

Able to demonstrate what I have read, talking about characters, events and settings and answer a range of questions about the text.

Recognise that texts and books are structured in different ways and discuss words and phrases that capture the reader's interest. I can understand and explain the meaning of words in context.

Able to understand what I have read by asking questions, retrieving and recording facts, drawing inferences and identifying how language and structure contribute to meaning.

Star vocabulary

Minotaur – a monster shaped half like a man and half like a bull,

Theseus - a king of Athens in Greek mythology

Scroll - a roll of parchment or paper for writing on.

Predator - an animal that lives mostly by killing and eating other animals

Hilt – handle of the sword

Ancient Greek Gods



A minotaur

In the Greek myths, the Minotaur was creature part man and part bull.



Genre

A fiction story based on a Greek mythical creature.

Author- Alan Albert Gibbons



Alan Albert Gibbons, who was born on 14th August 1953 (67 years old), is an English writer of children's books who has won a Blue Peter Book Award. He lives in Liverpool, England, where he used to teach in a primary school.

Context

This is a novel about a boy, Phoenix, the son of a computer geek who creates a virtual reality game that gets a bit too real. Phoenix becomes Theseus pursued by the Minotaur, becomes Perseus and confronts the Gorgon, and goes down into the underworld.

The Minotaur was captured for King Minos of Crete and locked in the labyrinth. Every year for nine years, seven youths and maidens came as tribute from Athens. These young people were also locked in the labyrinth for the Minotaur to feast upon, until the creature was defeated by Theseus.

Key characters

Phoenix Grave: son of a computer expert who creates a virtual reality game

Theseus and Perseus: Personas in a virtual reality game

Gorgon: A monster like creature in Greek Mythology, which needs to be defeated in the game

Steve Adams: school bully