

The Legend of Pheidippides

by David Hill

Summary

A seriously wounded young runner is sent to Athens to inform the Athenians about the outcome of a battle between the Greeks and Persians at Marathon.

Features of the Text

- Recount of a legend
- Narrative
- Setting, plot, characters, sequence of events
- Map with enlargement and scale

Purpose

The Legend of Pheidippides can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- identifying the features of a legend;
- exploring narrative structure and character development.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Ask the students what they know about legends.

- *What are legends usually about?*
- *Why might people create and retell legends?*

Ask the students what they know about marathons.

- *Can you name any famous marathons?*
- *How do you think marathons started?*

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 5.

- *What have you noticed about the way this legend is written?*

Ask the students to read to the end of page 7.

- *What do you predict is going to happen next?*
- *What can you say about Pheidippides' character?*
- *Why do you think a legend has grown up around this event?*
- *What do you know about the setting in which the story takes place?*

Ask the students to read to the end of the book, including the maps.

- *Can you add anything more about Pheidippides' character?*
- *Were your predictions about the story correct?*
- *How do the maps help you to understand the story?*

Revisit your earlier discussion about what you might expect to find when reading legends.

Following Up

The students can:

- use the copy master on page 44 to record the information about Pheidippides
- write their own legends based on a recent event.