Jason and the Golden Fleece

by Susan Paris

Summary

To avenge the betrayal of his father by his uncle and win back his kingdom, Jason must travel to a distant land to seize the golden fleece.

Features of the Text

- Recount of a legend
- Mythological characters
- Narrative text with action and dialogue
- Orientation, problem, climax, resolution

Purpose

Jason and the Golden Fleece can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- analyzing the features of hero stories in legends and myths;
- analyzing word meanings;

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Ask the students to look at the cover and predict what kind of story this is.

– *When do you think this story takes place? Why?* (dress, helmets, boat)

Discuss the characteristics of hero stories in literature or movies. List them on the board.

– *What usually motivates a hero?* (defending someone's rights or honor)
– *What can happen as they try to accomplish their goal?* (challenges and obstacles)
– *Why is the hero usually successful?* (perseverance, problem solving, strength of character)

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 4.

– *What is Jason's motivation?*
– *The author says that Jason's father was forced from his throne. What does this mean?*

Ask the students to read to the end of page 9 and to think about how drama and tension are created in this story. Find and discuss examples of dramatic language.

– *Why is tension important in hero stories?*
– *How does the language create tension?*

The students can now read to the end of the story looking for new information to add to the list.

– *Why are extreme challenges important in hero stories?*
– *What other characteristics can we add to our list?*

Following Up

The students can:
- use the blackline master on page 55 to analyze the structure of a myth • write about a challenge Jason may have faced on his way back home • find ten examples of dramatic language that convey tension in the story • rewrite this story using contemporary challenges.