Student:_____

Date:_____

Teacher: Shawn McGirr

JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS

By: Passaic County Community College
Source: www.pccc.cc.nj.us/asrc/readwrit/jason.html

Pronunciation: EY

Directions: Practice by saying the word pairs and example sentences, then speak the words from this reading.

Word Pairs take-tick, bail-bill, late-lit, fate-fit, rain-ran

Example sentence: Faith takes away the tray.

Examples from this reading: Awaited - Raised - Strait - Enabled - Remained - Enraged - Gaze - Persuade -

Part B- Vocabulary and Reading

Directions: Study the following keywords and definintions.

1. rightful -(adj) - Something held or owned by a just or proper claim.
2. overthrown -(v) - To end an established rule or government, as by revolution.
3. imprisoned -(v) - Keep in a jail or prison; confine.
4. existence -(n) - The state of living or being.
5. recover -(v) - To get back or return to the original condition.
6. yield -(v) - To give an advantage to someone else.

Which words are the hardest?

Focus on the tough ones!

1. Read the entire passage quickly and generate questions using the graphic organizer below.
2. Read the passage again more carefully and try to answer your questions.

Thick Questions Big questions that you need to THINK and SEARCH to find the answers to. EXAMPLES: Why does the author think that…? What would happen if …? Why does…?		**Thin Questions** Smaller questions that you can find the answer to RIGHT IN THE TEXT. EXAMPLES: What…? Who…? When…? Where…?	
Questions	Possible Answers	Questions	Possible Answers

Jason and the Argonauts

Jason was the son of King Aeson of Iolcus and rightful heir to the throne. But before Jason was born, King Aeson's half brother, Pelias, had overthrown the king and imprisoned him.

Jason's mother pretended that her son had died at birth. And she took him away secretly to be brought up by Chiron the centaur, a creature who was half horse and half man. If King Pelias had known of Jason's existence, he would surely have put the boy to death.

Even though Pelias knew nothing of Jason, he could not rest. For an oracle had warned him that he would be killed by a relative and that he must guard against a man wearing one sandal.

Many years later, a handsome young man with curly, golden hair came walking into the marketplace at Iolcus. He was wearing a leopard's skin and only one sandal. He had lost the other while carrying an old woman across a river.

When King Pelias saw the tall stranger with one sandal, he was instantly afraid. Surely he was the man about whom the oracle had warned Pelias.

"What is your name?" said King Pelias. "And why have you come to my kingdom?"

"I am called Jason," said the stranger. "I have come to claim the throne, for my father is your half brother, and I am the rightful king of this land. I do not wish to quarrel with you. You may keep all the riches of the kingdom, but I must have the title of king, for it belongs to me."

King Pelias thought quickly and said, "I shall not quarrel with you. The throne shall soon be yours. But first you must do one thing. Bring back the Golden Fleece from the kingdom of Colchis. It hangs on a tree there and is guarded by a dragon that never sleeps. This ram's fleece of gold belongs to our kingdom, and only a strong, fearless man like you can recover it. When you return with it, I shall yield my throne."

7. accept -(v) - To take or allow something.
8. constructed -(v) - Build.
9. survive -(v) - To stay alive.
10. sturdy -(adj) - Strong; firm; can not be moved.
11. capture -(v) - To catch and hold something or someone.

King Pelias was sure that nobody could survive such a dangerous quest, but Jason did not know this. "What a fine adventure it will be," said Jason. "I accept the challenge gladly. I shall choose a group of brave young heroes and have a sturdy ship constructed at once."

Jason asked Argus, a master shipbuilder, to build him a great ship with fifty oars. Then he sent envoys to every palace in Greece, asking for volunteers to help capture the Golden Fleece. The ship was called the Argo, and the fifty volunteers, called Argonauts, included such as Heracles and Orpheus.

12. broke -(v) - To split something into pieces.
13. find -(v) - To locate something.
14. predict -(v) - To expect a future event.
15. pleaded -(v) - Beg for.

As the group rowed away, Jason, the leader, prayed to Zeus to bless the dangerous journey. The strong Argonauts pulled their oars, and the ship sped through the waves.

After a while, Heracles called out, "Let us have a contest to see which of us can row the longest."

"Agreed!" cried the others, and they rowed for many long hours until, one by one, they grew tired and had to give up. Only Jason and Heracles continued. Finally Jason fainted from overexertion, and Heracles' oar broke in two.

The Argonauts pulled their boat onto a sandbar in a river so that they could rest. And Hylas, Heracles' squire, went ashore to find drinking water. A long time passed, and he did not return. Heracles went ashore and ran through the forest, calling his squire's name, but he could not find him. A water nymph who had fallen in love with Hylas had pulled him down into the spring where she lived. Heracles did not know this and continued searching for Hylas. When Heracles did not return, the Argonauts combed the

shore for hours, calling, "Heracles! Heracles! We must leave." At last Jason made the difficult decision to set off without him, for the wind was in their favor.

Before long the Argonauts came to a kingdom where the withered, starved ruler, named Phineus, pleaded for their help. "Because I am able to predict the future, Zeus has punished me. Every time I begin a meal, he sends two horrible flying creatures, the Harpies, to snatch some of my food and make the rest smell so foul that I cannot eat it."

"We are ready to serve you," said Jason, pitying the man. "Tell us what we must do."

"Only two of your men, the sons of Boreas, the North Wind, can drive them off," said Phineus.

The sons of Boreas stepped forward with their swords ready. Then the Argonauts put dinner in front of Phineus. The Harpies flew down, snatched the food with their sharp claws, and flew off with it. But this time the sons of Boreas flew after them and slashed at them with their swords, chasing them far away. "They won't bother you anymore," they said to Phineus.

"I cannot thank you enough," he replied. "You have saved my life. And now I am going to help you, for I know that you must row through the dangerous Bosphorus strait on your way through the Black Sea to Colchis."

Phineus gave them invaluable advice, and the Argonauts set forth once more. At last they sighted the huge, jagged rocks called the Symplegades, or Clashing Islands, that guarded the entrance to the Bosphorus. Phineus had told them, "When a ship tries to go between these floating rocks, the rocks move together and smash the ship to pieces. There is only one way to get through. Let a dove fly before you, and when the rocks crush its tail, row through with all your might. Thus you will pass as the rocks separate before clashing again."

Jason let the dove go. Just as Phineus had predicted, the rocks smashed together, crushing the tip of the dove's tail. Then Jason gave the command: "Row!" The Argonauts did, and as the huge rocks drew apart, the Argo slid through safely. Jason looked back and saw the rocks smash together again. But they crushed only the very tip of the ship, which was quickly repaired. Afterward the rocks became rooted, and ever since the passageway has been safe for sailors.

THE GOLDEN FLEECE

The Argonauts rowed through the Black Sea for days. At last they anchored at Colchis, tired but excited. "Somewhere in this land, the Golden Fleece is guarded by a fierce dragon," said Jason. "I do not know how we shall find it, but find it we will. First, though, we must refresh ourselves with a long sleep."

While the Argonauts slept under the stars, Hera and Athena discussed them on Mount Olympus. "We must help Jason," they said to each other, for Jason was one of their favorite mortals. Then they both had the same idea. "Let us ask Aphrodite for her aid."

Aphrodite, goddess of love, was always happy to use her powers, and she said to her son, Eros, "I shall give you a shining toy, a ball of gold, if you do what I ask."

"Only ask," said Eros, anxious to have the toy.

"You must make the daughter of the king of Colchis fall in love with Jason. Her name is Medea, and she is a witch. Only Medea can help the Argonauts with their dangerous mission."

Eros prepared to fly down to earth while the Argonauts made their way to the palace of King Aetes of Colchis. The king greeted them courteously, as did his daughter, Medea. But King Aetes felt uneasy. He asked Jason who he and his companions were and why they had come to him. Jason replied, "We are all brave men of Greece, and we have come to ask you for the Golden Fleece. Ask us any service, and we shall perform it for you in exchange for the fleece."

King Aetes had no intention of handing over his most precious possession. And so he thought of an impossible task for the Argonauts to perform.

He said to Jason, "I shall be happy to give you the Golden Fleece. But first you must yoke to a plow two bulls that breathe fire. Then you must plow the field, and into the furrows of the earth you must sow the teeth of a dragon. These teeth are seeds from which a crop of armed men shall grow. They shall attack you and, single-handed, you must mow them down."

Jason said, "This I shall do tomorrow," although he could not imagine how he would accomplish such an impossible task.

At that moment Eros flew down to Colchis. Quickly he shot an arrow of love into Medea's heart, and from that time she could not take her eyes off Jason. Medea longed to help Jason with her magic, but she tried desperately to put aside her thoughts of him. Was he not, after all, an enemy of her father?

That night she twisted and turned in bed, torn between her love for Jason and her loyalty to her father. But Eros's arrow had done its job well, and at last she sent her servant to bring Jason to her.

In the middle of the dark night, Medea declared her love for Jason and said, "If you promise to take me as your wife, I shall help you." And Jason clasped the lovely sorceress in his arms, promising to wed her. Then Medea said to him, "Here is a magic ointment. Spread it over your body and your weapons. It will protect you from the fire-breathing bulls and the armed men who will spring up when you have sown the dragon's teeth." She also gave him a magic stone to throw among the armed men. "Now go, for there is not much time before daylight."

The next morning Jason spread the magic ointment on his body and on his spear and his shield. Then he went to the field where King Aetes and his warriors awaited the spectacle.

"Jason will be killed by the fire-breathing bulls," said the king's son, Apsyrtus.

"That is certain," said the king. "What a fool he is to undergo this ordeal."

Jason strode out onto the field, and the two fire-breathing bulls were set loose. Jason ran after them, grabbed them both by the horns, and yoked them to the plow.

"The bulls breathe fire on Jason, yet they do not even singe him," said Apsyrtus. "How can this be?"

"It is indeed strange," said the king. "But he will not be able to withstand the armed warriors who will spring up when he sows the dragon's teeth."

Jason drove the bulls across the field. The plow cut furrows in the earth. Into these Jason sowed the dragon's teeth. Instantly an army of fierce armed men sprang up and ran to attack Jason. But Jason threw the magic stone into their midst, and the men began killing one another with their spears.

King Aetes was furious. He said to his son, "Jason shall never have the Golden Fleece. Go and call our army together. Tonight, when he expects me to give him the treasure, we will attack his band of men on board their ship."

Because Medea was a sorceress she knew her father's plan. That night she stole to Jason's ship and said, "My father is planning to prevent you from capturing the Golden Fleece. You must seize it now, before he attacks you. I shall come on board and lead you to the sacred grove where the Golden Fleece hangs." The heroes rowed quietly as Medea guided them. "Now!" she said suddenly. "Stop here and pull up your ship on shore."

They did as she said. Then Medea and Jason crept ashore to the sacred grove. There they saw the Golden Fleece hanging from a tree and glistening in the moonlight. A huge, hissing dragon guarded it, but Medea sneaked up and sang it a soothing, magical lullaby. Soon the dragon was fast asleep. Jason snatched the Golden Fleece, and he and Medea ran back to the ship. The heroes rowed away as fast as they could. And not until they were several miles out to sea did Jason show them the Golden Fleece. They all marveled at the hard-won prize and praised Medea for her help in gaining it. "But how will Medea get back to the palace?" they asked.

"She is not going to leave us," said Jason. "For I have promised to marry her as soon as I can."

It was not long before King C learned that Jason and the Argonauts had rowed away with the Golden Fleece and his daughter, Medea. The king sent Apsyrtus with an army to pursue them.

Once again Medea saved the Argonauts with her trickery. She sent a message to Apsyrtus, asking him to meet her on an island. There she would give him the Golden Fleece, and then she would return with him to their father.

Jason accompanied Medea that night. When Apsyrtus arrived, Jason slew him with one stroke of his sword. Medea's robe was covered with her brother's blood, but she was so hardhearted that she did not even grieve over him.

Apsyrtus's army, now leaderless, gave up. Jason and Medea rejoined the Argonauts, and they sped toward home in the Argo.

Another story says that Medea convinced her brother to leave with her on the Arga. Her father assembled his army and chased them. As he caught up with the Arga, she killed her brother and chopped him into pieces. One by one she threw the pieces into the water. Her father, distraught, stopped to pick up the pieces of his son. This enabled the Arga to escape.

Their plight was not over with the escape from King Aetes, however. They began to run out of supplies and felt the need to stop to get some. The only island that they could stop at was guardian by the only survivor of the bronze age of men, Talos. As guardian of the island, Talos kept the Argo at bay by hurling great boulders at it. Medea convinced Talos that she would give him a secret potion that would make him immortal if he would let her stop on the island. Talos agreed and drank the potion and it made him fall asleep. Medea knew that he had one great weakness, a single vein that went from his ankle to his head that kept his body alive. Medea went to him in his sleep and pulled the plug in his

ankle, whereupon Talos bled to death

THE RETURN HOME

Finally the Argo landed safely at Iolcus. "Home at last!" shouted the victorious Argonauts as Jason stepped ashore to present the Golden Fleece to King Pelias.

But Jason's joy was short-lived. To his horror, he learned that King Pelias had killed his father and that his mother had died soon after of grief.

Jason enlisted Medea's help to punish Pelias. Medea told Pelias's daughters that she had the power to make Pelias young again. In order to persuade them that she could bring this about, she cut up and boiled an old sheep together with some magic herbs. Soon a young lamb leaped out of the cauldron.

The daughters of Pelias were convinced. They asked Medea to cast a spell to put their father to sleep. Then they cut up Pelias and put him in the boiling water. But this time Medea did not add the magic herbs, and poor Pelias did not return to life. The prophecy that Pelias would be killed by a relative was thus fulfilled.

Even though Jason was the rightful heir to the throne, he decided to hastily leave Iolcus, as Pelias had been murdered using treachery. He and Medea fled to Corinth, where they remained for ten years and raised two sons. However, Jason fell in love with Glauce, the daughter of the King Creon, and determined to marry her, despite all that Medea had done for him.

Medea was enraged at Jason's heartless desertion. On the wedding day, she sent Jason's bride a beautiful robe that she had sprinkled with poison. When the princess put it on, it burtst into flames, killing her.

Then Medea killed her own two children, whose father was Jason, for she knew that life held nothing for them after her terrible deed. Her children would be slaves in Corinth, at best, or put to death, at worst.

Jason came to her in anger. She said to him:

"Yet it is well you came.

.For I shall ease the burden of my heart.

If I can make your baseness manifest.

.I saved you. Every man in Greece knows that..

The bulls, the dragon-men, the serpent warder of the Fleece,.

I conquered them. I made you victor. .

I held the light that saved you..

Father and home-I left them.

For a strange country. .I overthrew your foes,.

Contrived for Pelias the worst of deaths. .

Now you forsake me..

Where shall I go? Back to my father's house? .

To Pelias' daughters? I have become for you.

The enemy of all..

Myself, I had no quarrel with them..

Oh, I have had in you.

A loyal husband, to be admired of men..

An exile now, O Zeus, O Zeus.

.No one to help. I am alone."

Medea fled in her chariot drawn by dragons. And Jason was left a lonely man, mourning for his young bride-to-be and his beloved children.

Jason was no longer in the favor of the gods, for he had broken his word to Medea so that he could

marry another. He became a friendless, homeless old man, and one day, when he returned to gaze at his ship, the Argo, the prow fell on his head, and he died.

Long after Jason's death, the Golden Fleece hung in a temple of Zeus, and all of Greece could see it and remember the remarkable feats of Jason and his heroic band of Argonauts.

Question 1: Suggest a different title for this text. Why do you think that this would make a good title?

Question 2: What connections can you make between the text and other texts, information, or experiences?

Question 3: What is the main idea of this text? What details from the text support the main idea?

Question 4: Write 3-5 sentences summarizing the text.

Question 5: What is the purpose of this text?

G
Grammar

Focus on Grammar

The **present progressive** describes an activity in progress right now, like "I am typing," or in a more general now, like "I am living in Boston." How is the **present progressive** used in the sentence(s) below?

Directions: Identify how the **present_progressive** is used in the sentence(s) below

1. She is not going to leave us, said Jason.

   _____

2. That night she stole to Jason's ship and said, My father is planning to prevent you from capturing the Golden Fleece.

   _____

3. And now I am going to help you, for I know that you must row through the dangerous Bosphorus strait on your way through the Black Sea to Colchis.

   _____

R & S
Roots & Stems

Word Roots & Stems

Rule: The suffix **less** adds "without" to the meaning of a word, like *homeless*.

Directions: Identify the word that ends with -less in each sentence and write it on the line.

1. This ram's fleece of gold belongs to our kingdom, and only a strong, fearless man like you can recover it.

   _____

2. Medea was enraged at Jason's heartless desertion.

   _____

3. He became a friendless, homeless old man, and one day, when he returned to gaze at his ship, the Argo , the prow fell on his head, and he died.

   _____

Directions: Fill in the blanks below, just as in the models.

thoughtless	thought + less	He is a thoughtless boy.
penniless	(penny - y) + iless	The poor family is penniless.
careless	_____	_____
sleepless	_____	_____
powerless	_____	_____
tasteless	_____	_____

VP
Vocab
Practice

Vocabulary Practice

FILL IN THE BLANK

Directions: Use the word bank to identify the word that best completes the sentence.

accept	existence	predict	recover	rightful	pleaded
overthrown	constructed	broke	imprisoned	yield	survive
capture	find	sturdy			

1. It is bad to _____ gifts from strangers.
2. She lost her wallet on the subway but the police _____ed it.
3. The bank robber was _____d by the police.
4. This land is my _____ property, since it belonged to my parents.
5. When you get onto a highway, you must _____ to faster moving cars.
6. He _____d the war.

7. The Brooklyn Bridge was _____ over 100 years ago.
8. He _____ with her not to go.
9. Many people believe in the _____ of UFO's, but I don't.
10. He built a _____ house for protection.
11. The government _____ the protestors.
12. The fortune teller _____ed she would meet a rich handsome man.
13. I can't _____ my keys.
14. He _____ his leg skiing.

MATCHING

Directions: Write the letter of word that matches the definition on the line. If it helps, feel free to also draw a line between the definition and the matching word.

A.	accept
B.	existence
C.	predict
D.	recover
E.	rightful
F.	pleaded
G.	overthrown
H.	constructed
I.	broke
J.	imprisoned
K.	yield
L.	survive
M.	capture
N.	find
O.	sturdy

1. _____ To take or allow something.
2. _____ To get back or return to the original condition.
3. _____ To catch and hold something or someone.
4. _____ Something held or owned by a just or proper claim.
5. _____ To give an advantage to someone else.
6. _____ To stay alive.
7. _____ Build.
8. _____ Beg for.
9. _____ The state of living or being.
10. _____ Strong; firm; can not be moved.
11. _____ Keep in a jail or prison; confine.
12. _____ To expect a future event.
13. _____ To locate something.
14. _____ To end an established rule or government, as by revolution.
15. _____ To split something into pieces.

WRITE YOUR OWN SENTENCES

Directions: For each of the words in the box, write an original sentence using the word. Circle the vocabulary word in each sentence. Be sure to write a sentence that would help the reader better understand the meaning of the word.

accept	existence	predict	recover	rightful	pleaded
overthrown	constructed	broke	imprisoned	yield	survive
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1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

Student:_____

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Even though Pelias knew nothing of Jason, he could not rest. For an oracle had warned him that he would be killed by a relative and that he must guard against a man wearing one sandal.

Many years later, a handsome young man with curly, golden hair came walking into the marketplace at Iolcus. He was wearing a leopard's skin and only one sandal. He had lost the other while carrying an old woman across a river.

When King Pelias saw the tall stranger with one sandal, he was instantly afraid. Surely he was the man about whom the oracle had warned Pelias.

"What is your name?" said King Pelias. "And why have you come to my kingdom?"

"I am called Jason," said the stranger. "I have come to claim the throne, for my father is your half brother, and I am the rightful king of this land. I do not wish to quarrel with you. You may keep all the riches of the kingdom, but I must have the title of king, for it belongs to me."

King Pelias thought quickly and said, "I shall not quarrel with you. The throne shall soon be yours. But first you must do one thing. Bring back the Golden Fleece from the kingdom of Colchis. It hangs on a tree there and is guarded by a dragon that never sleeps. This ram's fleece of gold belongs to our kingdom, and only a strong, fearless man like you can recover it. When you return with it, I shall yield my throne."

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"I cannot thank you enough," he replied. "You have saved my life. And now I am going to help you, for I know that you must row through the dangerous Bosphorus strait on your way through the Black Sea to Colchis."

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Jason let the dove go. Just as Phineus had predicted, the rocks smashed together, crushing the tip of the dove's tail. Then Jason gave the command: "Row!" The Argonauts did, and as the huge rocks drew apart, the Argo slid through safely. Jason looked back and saw the rocks smash together again. But they crushed only the very tip of the ship, which was quickly repaired. Afterward the rocks became rooted, and ever since the passageway has been safe for sailors.

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The Argonauts rowed through the Black Sea for days. At last they anchored at Colchis, tired but excited. "Somewhere in this land, the Golden Fleece is guarded by a fierce dragon," said Jason. "I do not know how we shall find it, but find it we will. First, though, we must refresh ourselves with a long sleep."

While the Argonauts slept under the stars, Hera and Athena discussed them on Mount Olympus. "We must help Jason," they said to each other, for Jason was one of their favorite mortals. Then they both had the same idea. "Let us ask Aphrodite for her aid."

Aphrodite, goddess of love, was always happy to use her powers, and she said to her son, Eros, "I shall give you a shining toy, a ball of gold, if you do what I ask."

"Only ask," said Eros, anxious to have the toy.

"You must make the daughter of the king of Colchis fall in love with Jason. Her name is Medea, and she is a witch. Only Medea can help the Argonauts with their dangerous mission."

Eros prepared to fly down to earth while the Argonauts made their way to the palace of King Aetes of Colchis. The king greeted them courteously, as did his daughter, Medea. But King Aetes felt uneasy. He asked Jason who he and his companions were and why they had come to him. Jason replied, "We are all brave men of Greece, and we have come to ask you for the Golden Fleece. Ask us any service, and we shall perform it for you in exchange for the fleece."

King Aetes had no intention of handing over his most precious possession. And so he thought of an impossible task for the Argonauts to perform.

He said to Jason, "I shall be happy to give you the Golden Fleece. But first you must yoke to a plow two bulls that breathe fire. Then you must plow the field, and into the furrows of the earth you must sow the teeth of a dragon. These teeth are seeds from which a crop of armed men shall grow. They shall attack you and, single-handed, you must mow them down."

Jason said, "This I shall do tomorrow," although he could not imagine how he would accomplish such an impossible task.

At that moment Eros flew down to Colchis. Quickly he shot an arrow of love into Medea's heart, and from that time she could not take her eyes off Jason. Medea longed to help Jason with her magic, but she tried desperately to put aside her thoughts of him. Was he not, after all, an enemy of her father?

That night she twisted and turned in bed, torn between her love for Jason and her loyalty to her father. But Eros's arrow had done its job well, and at last she sent her servant to bring Jason to her.

In the middle of the dark night, Medea declared her love for Jason and said, "If you promise to take me as your wife, I shall help you." And Jason clasped the lovely sorceress in his arms, promising to wed her. Then Medea said to him, "Here is a magic ointment. Spread it over your body and your weapons. It will protect you from the fire-breathing bulls and the armed men who will spring up when you have sown the dragon's teeth." She also gave him a magic stone to throw among the armed men. "Now go, for there is not much time before daylight."

The next morning Jason spread the magic ointment on his body and on his spear and his shield. Then he went to the field where King Aetes and his warriors awaited the spectacle.

"Jason will be killed by the fire-breathing bulls," said the king's son, Apsyrtus.

"That is certain," said the king. "What a fool he is to undergo this ordeal."

Jason strode out onto the field, and the two fire-breathing bulls were set loose. Jason ran after them, grabbed them both by the horns, and yoked them to the plow.

"The bulls breathe fire on Jason, yet they do not even singe him," said Apsyrtus. "How can this be?"

"It is indeed strange," said the king. "But he will not be able to withstand the armed warriors who will spring up when he sows the dragon's teeth."

Jason drove the bulls across the field. The plow cut furrows in the earth. Into these Jason sowed the dragon's teeth. Instantly an army of fierce armed men sprang up and ran to attack Jason. But Jason threw the magic stone into their midst, and the men began killing one another with their spears.

King Aetes was furious. He said to his son, "Jason shall never have the Golden Fleece. Go and call our army together. Tonight, when he expects me to give him the treasure, we will attack his band of men on board their ship."

Because Medea was a sorceress she knew her father's plan. That night she stole to Jason's ship and said, "My father is planning to prevent you from capturing the Golden Fleece. You must seize it now, before he attacks you. I shall come on board and lead you to the sacred grove where the Golden Fleece hangs." The heroes rowed quietly as Medea guided them. "Now!" she said suddenly. "Stop here and pull up your ship on shore."

They did as she said. Then Medea and Jason crept ashore to the sacred grove. There they saw the Golden Fleece hanging from a tree and glistening in the moonlight. A huge, hissing dragon guarded it, but Medea sneaked up and sang it a soothing, magical lullaby. Soon the dragon was fast asleep. Jason snatched the Golden Fleece, and he and Medea ran back to the ship. The heroes rowed away as fast as they could. And not until they were several miles out to sea did Jason show them the Golden Fleece. They all marveled at the hard-won prize and praised Medea for her help in gaining it. "But how will Medea get back to the palace?" they asked.

"She is not going to leave us," said Jason. "For I have promised to marry her as soon as I can."

It was not long before King C learned that Jason and the Argonauts had rowed away with the Golden Fleece and his daughter, Medea. The king sent Apsyrtus with an army to pursue them.

Once again Medea saved the Argonauts with her trickery. She sent a message to Apsyrtus, asking him to meet her on an island. There she would give him the Golden Fleece, and then she would return with him to their father.

Jason accompanied Medea that night. When Apsyrtus arrived, Jason slew him with one stroke of his sword. Medea's robe was covered with her brother's blood, but she was so hardhearted that she did not even grieve over him.

Apsyrtus's army, now leaderless, gave up. Jason and Medea rejoined the Argonauts, and they sped toward home in the Argo.

Another story says that Medea convinced her brother to leave with her on the Arga. Her father assembled his army and chased them. As he caught up with the Arga, she killed her brother and chopped him into pieces. One by one she threw the pieces into the water. Her father, distraught, stopped to pick up the pieces of his son. This enabled the Arga to escape.

Their plight was not over with the escape from King Aetes, however. They began to run out of supplies and felt the need to stop to get some. The only island that they could stop at was guardian by the only survivor of the bronze age of men, Talos. As guardian of the island, Talos kept the Argo at bay by hurling great boulders at it. Medea convinced Talos that she would give him a secret potion that would make him immortal if he would let her stop on the island. Talos agreed and drank the potion and it made him fall asleep. Medea knew that he had one great weakness, a single vein that went from his ankle to his head that kept his body alive. Medea went to him in his sleep and pulled the plug in his

ankle, whereupon Talos bled to death

THE RETURN HOME

Finally the Argo landed safely at Iolcus. "Home at last!" shouted the victorious Argonauts as Jason stepped ashore to present the Golden Fleece to King Pelias.

But Jason's joy was short-lived. To his horror, he learned that King Pelias had killed his father and that his mother had died soon after of grief.

Jason enlisted Medea's help to punish Pelias. Medea told Pelias's daughters that she had the power to make Pelias young again. In order to persuade them that she could bring this about, she cut up and boiled an old sheep together with some magic herbs. Soon a young lamb leaped out of the cauldron.

The daughters of Pelias were convinced. They asked Medea to cast a spell to put their father to sleep. Then they cut up Pelias and put him in the boiling water. But this time Medea did not add the magic herbs, and poor Pelias did not return to life. The prophecy that Pelias would be killed by a relative was thus fulfilled.

Even though Jason was the rightful heir to the throne, he decided to hastily leave Iolcus, as Pelias had been murdered using treachery. He and Medea fled to Corinth, where they remained for ten years and raised two sons. However, Jason fell in love with Glauce, the daughter of the King Creon, and determined to marry her, despite all that Medea had done for him.

Medea was enraged at Jason's heartless desertion. On the wedding day, she sent Jason's bride a beautiful robe that she had sprinkled with poison. When the princess put it on, it burtst into flames, killing her.

Then Medea killed her own two children, whose father was Jason, for she knew that life held nothing for them after her terrible deed. Her children would be slaves in Corinth, at best, or put to death, at worst.

Jason came to her in anger. She said to him:

"Yet it is well you came.

.For I shall ease the burden of my heart.

If I can make your baseness manifest.

.I saved you. Every man in Greece knows that..

The bulls, the dragon-men, the serpent warder of the Fleece,.

I conquered them. I made you victor. .

I held the light that saved you..

Father and home-I left them.

For a strange country. .I overthrew your foes,.

Contrived for Pelias the worst of deaths. .

Now you forsake me..

Where shall I go? Back to my father's house? .

To Pelias' daughters? I have become for you.

The enemy of all..

Myself, I had no quarrel with them..

Oh, I have had in you.

A loyal husband, to be admired of men..

An exile now, O Zeus, O Zeus.

.No one to help. I am alone."

Medea fled in her chariot drawn by dragons. And Jason was left a lonely man, mourning for his young bride-to-be and his beloved children.

Jason was no longer in the favor of the gods, for he had broken his word to Medea so that he could

marry another. He became a friendless, homeless old man, and one day, when he returned to gaze at his ship, the Argo, the prow fell on his head, and he died.

Long after Jason's death, the Golden Fleece hung in a temple of Zeus, and all of Greece could see it and remember the remarkable feats of Jason and his heroic band of Argonauts.

Question 1: Suggest a different title for this text. Why do you think that this would make a good title?

Question 2: What connections can you make between the text and other texts, information, or experiences?

Question 3: What is the main idea of this text? What details from the text support the main idea?

Question 4: Write 3-5 sentences summarizing the text.

Question 5: What is the purpose of this text?

G
Grammar

Focus on Grammar

The **present progressive** describes an activity in progress right now, like "I am typing," or in a more general now, like "I am living in Boston." How is the **present progressive** used in the sentence(s) below?

Directions: Identify how the **present_progressive** is used in the sentence(s) below

1. She is not going to leave us, said Jason.

   _____

2. That night she stole to Jason's ship and said, My father is planning to prevent you from capturing the Golden Fleece.

   _____

3. And now I am going to help you, for I know that you must row through the dangerous Bosphorus strait on your way through the Black Sea to Colchis.

   _____

R & S
Roots & Stems

Word Roots & Stems

Rule: The suffix **less** adds "without" to the meaning of a word, like *homeless*.

Directions: Identify the word that ends with -less in each sentence and write it on the line.

1. This ram's fleece of gold belongs to our kingdom, and only a strong, fearless man like you can recover it.

   _____

2. Medea was enraged at Jason's heartless desertion.

   _____

3. He became a friendless, homeless old man, and one day, when he returned to gaze at his ship, the Argo , the prow fell on his head, and he died.

   _____

Directions: Fill in the blanks below, just as in the models.

thoughtless	thought + less	He is a thoughtless boy.
penniless	(penny - y) + iless	The poor family is penniless.
careless	_____	_____
sleepless	_____	_____
powerless	_____	_____
tasteless	_____	_____

VP
Vocab
Practice

Vocabulary Practice

FILL IN THE BLANK

Directions: Use the word bank to identify the word that best completes the sentence.

accept	existence	predict	recover	rightful	pleaded
overthrown	constructed	broke	imprisoned	yield	survive
capture	find	sturdy			

1. It is bad to _____ gifts from strangers.
2. She lost her wallet on the subway but the police _____ed it.
3. The bank robber was _____d by the police.
4. This land is my _____ property, since it belonged to my parents.
5. When you get onto a highway, you must _____ to faster moving cars.
6. He _____d the war.

7. The Brooklyn Bridge was _____ over 100 years ago.
8. He _____ with her not to go.
9. Many people believe in the _____ of UFO's, but I don't.
10. He built a _____ house for protection.
11. The government _____ the protestors.
12. The fortune teller _____ed she would meet a rich handsome man.
13. I can't _____ my keys.
14. He _____ his leg skiing.

MATCHING

Directions: Write the letter of word that matches the definition on the line. If it helps, feel free to also draw a line between the definition and the matching word.

A.	accept
B.	existence
C.	predict
D.	recover
E.	rightful
F.	pleaded
G.	overthrown
H.	constructed
I.	broke
J.	imprisoned
K.	yield
L.	survive
M.	capture
N.	find
O.	sturdy

1. _____ To take or allow something.
2. _____ To get back or return to the original condition.
3. _____ To catch and hold something or someone.
4. _____ Something held or owned by a just or proper claim.
5. _____ To give an advantage to someone else.
6. _____ To stay alive.
7. _____ Build.
8. _____ Beg for.
9. _____ The state of living or being.
10. _____ Strong; firm; can not be moved.
11. _____ Keep in a jail or prison; confine.
12. _____ To expect a future event.
13. _____ To locate something.
14. _____ To end an established rule or government, as by revolution.
15. _____ To split something into pieces.

WRITE YOUR OWN SENTENCES

Directions: For each of the words in the box, write an original sentence using the word. Circle the vocabulary word in each sentence. Be sure to write a sentence that would help the reader better understand the meaning of the word.

accept	existence	predict	recover	rightful	pleaded
overthrown	constructed	broke	imprisoned	yield	survive
capture	find	sturdy			

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

Student:_____

Date:_____

Teacher: Shawn McGirr

JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS

By: Passaic County Community College
Source: www.pccc.cc.nj.us/asrc/readwrit/jason.html

Pronunciation: EY

Directions: Practice by saying the word pairs and example sentences, then speak the words from this reading.

Word Pairs take-tick, bail-bill, late-lit, fate-fit, rain-ran

Example sentence: Faith takes away the tray.

Examples from this reading: Awaited - Raised - Strait - Enabled - Remained - Enraged - Gaze - Persuade -

Vocabulary

Directions: Study the following keywords and definintions.

1. accept -(v) - To take or allow something.
2. existence -(n) - The state of living or being.
3. predict -(v) - To expect a future event.
4. recover -(v) - To get back or return to the original condition.
5. rightful -(adj) - Something held or owned by a just or proper claim.
6. pleaded -(v) - Beg for.
7. overthrown -(v) - To end an established rule or government, as by revolution.
8. constructed -(v) - Build.
9. broke -(v) - To split something into pieces.
10. imprisoned -(v) - Keep in a jail or prison; confine.
11. yield -(v) - To give an advantage to someone else.
12. survive -(v) - To stay alive.
13. capture -(v) - To catch and hold something or someone.
14. find -(v) - To locate something.
15. sturdy -(adj) - Strong; firm; can not be moved.

Which words are the hardest?

Focus on the tough ones!

Reading

Directions: Read the following passage carefully.

1. Read the entire passage quickly and generate questions using the graphic organizer below.
2. Read the passage again more carefully and try to answer your questions.

Thick Questions	Thin Questions
Big questions that you need to THINK and SEARCH to find the answers to. EXAMPLES: Why does the author think that…? What would happen if …? Why does…?	Smaller questions that you can find the answer to RIGHT IN THE TEXT. EXAMPLES: What…? Who…? When…?

		Where…?	
Questions	Possible Answers	Questions	Possible Answers

Jason and the Argonauts

Jason was the son of King Aeson of Iolcus and rightful heir to the throne. But before Jason was born, King Aeson's half brother, Pelias, had overthrown the king and imprisoned him.

Jason's mother pretended that her son had died at birth. And she took him away secretly to be brought up by Chiron the centaur, a creature who was half horse and half man. If King Pelias had known of Jason's existence, he would surely have put the boy to death.

Even though Pelias knew nothing of Jason, he could not rest. For an oracle had warned him that he would be killed by a relative and that he must guard against a man wearing one sandal.

Many years later, a handsome young man with curly, golden hair came walking into the marketplace at Iolcus. He was wearing a leopard's skin and only one sandal. He had lost the other while carrying an old woman across a river.

When King Pelias saw the tall stranger with one sandal, he was instantly afraid. Surely he was the man about whom the oracle had warned Pelias.

"What is your name?" said King Pelias. "And why have you come to my kingdom?"

"I am called Jason," said the stranger. "I have come to claim the throne, for my father is your half brother, and I am the rightful king of this land. I do not wish to quarrel with you. You may keep all the riches of the kingdom, but I must have the title of king, for it belongs to me."

King Pelias thought quickly and said, "I shall not quarrel with you. The throne shall soon be yours. But first you must do one thing. Bring back the Golden Fleece from the kingdom of Colchis. It hangs on a tree there and is guarded by a dragon that never sleeps. This ram's fleece of gold belongs to our kingdom, and only a strong, fearless man like you can recover it. When you return with it, I shall yield my throne."

King Pelias was sure that nobody could survive such a dangerous quest, but Jason did not know this. "What a fine adventure it will be," said Jason. "I accept the challenge gladly. I shall choose a group of brave young heroes and have a sturdy ship constructed at once."

Jason asked Argus, a master shipbuilder, to build him a great ship with fifty oars. Then he sent envoys to every palace in Greece, asking for volunteers to help capture the Golden Fleece. The ship was called the Argo, and the fifty volunteers, called Argonauts, included such as Heracles and Orpheus.

As the group rowed away, Jason, the leader, prayed to Zeus to bless the dangerous journey. The strong Argonauts pulled their oars, and the ship sped through the waves.

After a while, Heracles called out, "Let us have a contest to see which of us can row the longest."

"Agreed!" cried the others, and they rowed for many long hours until, one by one, they grew tired and had to give up. Only Jason and Heracles continued. Finally Jason fainted from overexertion, and Heracles' oar broke in two.

The Argonauts pulled their boat onto a sandbar in a river so that they could rest. And Hylas, Heracles' squire, went ashore to find drinking water. A long time passed, and he did not return. Heracles went ashore and ran through the forest, calling his squire's name, but he could not find him. A water nymph who had fallen in love with Hylas had pulled him down into the spring where she lived. Heracles did not know this and continued searching for Hylas. When Heracles did not return, the Argonauts combed the shore for hours, calling, "Heracles! Heracles! We must leave." At last Jason made the difficult decision to set off without him, for the wind was in .their favor..

Before long the Argonauts came to a kingdom where the withered, starved ruler, named Phineus, pleaded for their help. "Because I am able to predict the future, Zeus has punished me. Every time I begin a meal, he sends two horrible flying creatures, the Harpies, to snatch some of my food and make the rest smell so foul that I cannot eat it."

"We are ready to serve you," said Jason, pitying the man. "Tell us what we must do."

"Only two of your men, the sons of Boreas, the North Wind, can drive them off," said Phineus.

The sons of Boreas stepped forward with their swords ready. Then the Argonauts put dinner in front of Phineus. The Harpies flew down, snatched the food with their sharp claws, and flew off with it. But this time the sons of Boreas flew after them and slashed at them with their swords, chasing them far away. "They won't bother you anymore," they said to Phineus.

"I cannot thank you enough," he replied. "You have saved my life. And now I am going to help you, for I know that you must row through the dangerous Bosphorus strait on your way through the Black Sea to Colchis."

Phineus gave them invaluable advice, and the Argonauts set forth once more. At last they sighted the huge, jagged rocks called the Symplegades, or Clashing Islands, that guarded the entrance to the Bosphorus. Phineus had told them, "When a ship tries to go between these floating rocks, the rocks move together and smash the ship to pieces. There is only one way to get through. Let a dove fly before you, and when the rocks crush its tail, row through with all your might. Thus you will pass as the rocks separate before clashing again."

Jason let the dove go. Just as Phineus had predicted, the rocks smashed together, crushing the tip of the dove's tail. Then Jason gave the command: "Row!" The Argonauts did, and as the huge rocks drew apart, the Argo slid through safely. Jason looked back and saw the rocks smash together again. But they crushed only the very tip of the ship, which was quickly repaired. Afterward the rocks became rooted, and ever since the passageway has been safe for sailors.

THE GOLDEN FLEECE

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Aphrodite, goddess of love, was always happy to use her powers, and she said to her son, Eros, "I shall give you a shining toy, a ball of gold, if you do what I ask."

"Only ask," said Eros, anxious to have the toy.

"You must make the daughter of the king of Colchis fall in love with Jason. Her name is Medea, and she is a witch. Only Medea can help the Argonauts with their dangerous mission."

Eros prepared to fly down to earth while the Argonauts made their way to the palace of King Aetes of Colchis. The king greeted them courteously, as did his daughter, Medea. But King Aetes felt uneasy. He asked Jason who he and his companions were and why they had come to him. Jason replied, "We are all brave men of Greece, and we have come to ask you for the Golden Fleece. Ask us any service, and we shall perform it for you in exchange for the fleece."

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bulls that breathe fire. Then you must plow the field, and into the furrows of the earth you must sow the teeth of a dragon. These teeth are seeds from which a crop of armed men shall grow. They shall attack you and, single-handed, you must mow them down."

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That night she twisted and turned in bed, torn between her love for Jason and her loyalty to her father. But Eros's arrow had done its job well, and at last she sent her servant to bring Jason to her.

In the middle of the dark night, Medea declared her love for Jason and said, "If you promise to take me as your wife, I shall help you." And Jason clasped the lovely sorceress in his arms, promising to wed her. Then Medea said to him, "Here is a magic ointment. Spread it over your body and your weapons. It will protect you from the fire-breathing bulls and the armed men who will spring up when you have sown the dragon's teeth." She also gave him a magic stone to throw among the armed men. "Now go, for there is not much time before daylight."

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Jason enlisted Medea's help to punish Pelias. Medea told Pelias's daughters that she had the power to make Pelias young again. In order to persuade them that she could bring this about, she cut up and boiled an old sheep together with some magic herbs. Soon a young lamb leaped out of the cauldron.

The daughters of Pelias were convinced. They asked Medea to cast a spell to put their father to sleep. Then they cut up Pelias and put him in the boiling water. But this time Medea did not add the magic herbs, and poor Pelias did not return to life. The prophecy that Pelias would be killed by a relative was thus fulfilled.

Even though Jason was the rightful heir to the throne, he decided to hastily leave Iolcus, as Pelias had been murdered using treachery. He and Medea fled to Corinth, where they remained for ten years and raised two sons. However, Jason fell in love with Glauce, the daughter of the King Creon, and determined to marry her, despite all that Medea had done for him.

Medea was enraged at Jason's heartless desertion. On the wedding day, she sent Jason's bride a beautiful robe that she had sprinkled with poison. When the princess put it on, it burtst into flames, killing her.

Then Medea killed her own two children, whose father was Jason, for she knew that life held nothing for them after her terrible deed. Her children would be slaves in Corinth, at best, or put to death, at worst.

Jason came to her in anger. She said to him:

"Yet it is well you came.

.For I shall ease the burden of my heart.

If I can make your baseness manifest.

.I saved you. Every man in Greece knows that..

The bulls, the dragon-men, the serpent warder of the Fleece,.

I conquered them. I made you victor. .

I held the light that saved you..

Father and home-I left them.

For a strange country. .I overthrew your foes,.

Contrived for Pelias the worst of deaths. .

Now you forsake me..

Where shall I go? Back to my father's house? .

To Pelias' daughters? I have become for you.

The enemy of all..

Myself, I had no quarrel with them..

Oh, I have had in you.

A loyal husband, to be admired of men..

An exile now, O Zeus, O Zeus.

.No one to help. I am alone."

Medea fled in her chariot drawn by dragons. And Jason was left a lonely man, mourning for his young bride-to-be and his beloved children.

Jason was no longer in the favor of the gods, for he had broken his word to Medea so that he could marry another. He became a friendless, homeless old man, and one day, when he returned to gaze at his ship, the Argo, the prow fell on his head, and he died.

Long after Jason's death, the Golden Fleece hung in a temple of Zeus, and all of Greece could see it and remember the remarkable feats of Jason and his heroic band of Argonauts.

Question 1: Suggest a different title for this text. Why do you think that this would make a good title?

Question 2: What connections can you make between the text and other texts, information, or experiences?

Question 3: What is the main idea of this text? What details from the text support the main idea?

Question 4: Write 3-5 sentences summarizing the text.

Question 5: What is the purpose of this text?

G
Grammar

Focus on Grammar

The **present progressive** describes an activity in progress right now, like "I am typing," or in a more general now, like "I am living in Boston." How is the **present progressive** used in the sentence(s) below?

Directions: Identify how the **present_progressive** is used in the sentence(s) below

1. She is not going to leave us, said Jason.

   _____

2. That night she stole to Jason's ship and said, My father is planning to prevent you from capturing the Golden Fleece.

   _____

3. And now I am going to help you, for I know that you must row through the dangerous Bosphorus strait on your way through the Black Sea to Colchis.

   _____

R & S
Roots & Stems

Word Roots & Stems

Rule: The suffix **less** adds "without" to the meaning of a word, like *homeless*.

Directions: Identify the word that ends with -less in each sentence and write it on the line.

1. This ram's fleece of gold belongs to our kingdom, and only a strong, fearless man like you can recover it.

   _____

2. Medea was enraged at Jason's heartless desertion.

   _____

3. He became a friendless, homeless old man, and one day, when he returned to gaze at his ship, the Argo , the prow fell on his head, and he died.

   _____

Directions: Fill in the blanks below, just as in the models.

thoughtless	thought + less	He is a thoughtless boy.
penniless	(penny - y) + iless	The poor family is penniless.
careless	_____	_____
sleepless	_____	_____
powerless	_____	_____
tasteless	_____	_____

VP
Vocab Practice

Vocabulary Practice

FILL IN THE BLANK

Directions: Use the word bank to identify the word that best completes the sentence.

accept	existence	predict	recover	rightful	pleaded
overthrown	constructed	broke	imprisoned	yield	survive
capture	find	sturdy			

1. It is bad to _____ gifts from strangers.
2. She lost her wallet on the subway but the police _____ed it.
3. The bank robber was _____d by the police.
4. This land is my _____ property, since it belonged to my parents.
5. When you get onto a highway, you must _____ to faster moving cars.
6. He _____d the war.
7. The Brooklyn Bridge was _____ over 100 years ago.
8. He _____ with her not to go.
9. Many people believe in the _____ of UFO's, but I don't.
10. He built a _____ house for protection.
11. The government _____ the protestors.
12. The fortune teller _____ed she would meet a rich handsome man.
13. I can't _____ my keys.
14. He _____ his leg skiing.

MATCHING

Directions: Write the letter of word that matches the definition on the line. If it helps, feel free to also draw a line between the definition and the matching word.

1. _____ To take or allow something.
2. _____ To get back or return to the original condition.
3. _____ To catch and hold something or someone.
4. _____ Something held or owned by a just or proper claim.
5. _____ To give an advantage to someone else.
6. _____ To stay alive.
7. _____ Build.
8. _____ Beg for.
9. _____ The state of living or being.
10. _____ Strong; firm; can not be moved.
11. _____ Keep in a jail or prison; confine.
12. _____ To expect a future event.
13. _____ To locate something.
14. _____ To end an established rule or government, as by revolution.
15. _____ To split something into pieces.

A. accept
B. existence
C. predict
D. recover
E. rightful
F. pleaded
G. overthrown
H. constructed
I. broke
J. imprisoned
K. yield
L. survive
M. capture
N. find
O. sturdy

WRITE YOUR OWN SENTENCES

Directions: For each of the words in the box, write an original sentence using the word. Circle the vocabulary word in each sentence. Be sure to write a sentence that would help the

Circle the vocabulary word in each sentence. Be sure to write a sentence that would help the reader better understand the meaning of the word.

accept	existence	predict	recover	rightful	pleaded
overthrown	constructed	broke	imprisoned	yield	survive
capture	find	sturdy			

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

Q
Questions

Student:_____

Date:_____

Teacher: Shawn McGirr

JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS

By: Passaic County Community College
Source: www.pccc.cc.nj.us/asrc/readwrit/jason.html

P
Pronunciation

Pronunciation: EY

Directions: Practice by saying the word pairs and example sentences, then speak the words from this reading.

Word Pairs take-tick, bail-bill, late-lit, fate-fit, rain-ran

Example sentence: Faith takes away the tray.

Examples from this reading: Awaited - Raised - Strait - Enabled - Remained - Enraged - Gaze - Persuade -

R
Reading

Reading

Directions: Read the following passage carefully.

1. Read the entire passage quickly and generate questions using the graphic organizer below.
2. Read the passage again more carefully and try to answer your questions.

Thick Questions Big questions that you need to THINK and SEARCH to find the answers to. EXAMPLES: Why does the author think that…? What would happen if …? Why does…?		**Thin Questions** Smaller questions that you can find the answer to RIGHT IN THE TEXT. EXAMPLES: What…? Who…? When…? Where…?	
Questions	Possible Answers	Questions	Possible Answers

Jason and the Argonauts

Jason was the son of King Aeson of Iolcus and rightful heir to the throne. But before Jason was born, King Aeson's half brother, Pelias, had overthrown the king and imprisoned him.

Jason's mother pretended that her son had died at birth. And she took him away secretly to be brought up by Chiron the centaur, a creature who was half horse and half man. If King Pelias had known of Jason's existence, he would surely have put the boy to death.

Even though Pelias knew nothing of Jason, he could not rest. For an oracle had warned him that he would be killed by a relative and that he must guard against a man wearing one sandal.

Many years later, a handsome young man with curly, golden hair came walking into the marketplace at Iolcus. He was wearing a leopard's skin and only one sandal. He had lost the other while carrying an old woman across a river.

When King Pelias saw the tall stranger with one sandal, he was instantly afraid. Surely he was the man about whom the oracle had warned Pelias.

"What is your name?" said King Pelias. "And why have you come to my kingdom?"

"I am called Jason," said the stranger. "I have come to claim the throne, for my father is your half brother, and I am the rightful king of this land. I do not wish to quarrel with you. You may keep all the riches of the kingdom, but I must have the title of king, for it belongs to me."

King Pelias thought quickly and said, "I shall not quarrel with you. The throne shall soon be yours. But first you must do one thing. Bring back the Golden Fleece from the kingdom of Colchis. It hangs on a tree there and is guarded by a dragon that never sleeps. This ram's fleece of gold belongs to our kingdom, and only a strong, fearless man like you can recover it. When you return with it, I shall yield my throne."

King Pelias was sure that nobody could survive such a dangerous quest, but Jason did not know this. "What a fine adventure it will be," said Jason. "I accept the challenge gladly. I shall choose a group of brave young heroes and have a sturdy ship constructed at once."

Jason asked Argus, a master shipbuilder, to build him a great ship with fifty oars. Then he sent envoys to every palace in Greece, asking for volunteers to help capture the Golden Fleece. The ship was called the Argo, and the fifty volunteers, called Argonauts, included such as Heracles and Orpheus.

As the group rowed away, Jason, the leader, prayed to Zeus to bless the dangerous journey. The strong Argonauts pulled their oars, and the ship sped through the waves.

After a while, Heracles called out, "Let us have a contest to see which of us can row the longest."

"Agreed!" cried the others, and they rowed for many long hours until, one by one, they grew tired and had to give up. Only Jason and Heracles continued. Finally Jason fainted from overexertion, and Heracles' oar broke in two.

The Argonauts pulled their boat onto a sandbar in a river so that they could rest. And Hylas, Heracles' squire, went ashore to find drinking water. A long time passed, and he did not return. Heracles went ashore and ran through the forest, calling his squire's name, but he could not find him. A water nymph who had fallen in love with Hylas had pulled him down into the spring where she lived. Heracles did not know this and continued searching for Hylas. When Heracles did not return, the Argonauts combed the shore for hours, calling, "Heracles! Heracles! We must leave." At last Jason made the difficult decision to set off without him, for the wind was in .their favor..

Before long the Argonauts came to a kingdom where the withered, starved ruler, named Phineus, pleaded for their help. "Because I am able to predict the future, Zeus has punished me. Every time I begin a meal, he sends two horrible flying creatures, the Harpies, to snatch some of my food and make the rest smell so foul that I cannot eat it."

"We are ready to serve you," said Jason, pitying the man. "Tell us what we must do."

"Only two of your men, the sons of Boreas, the North Wind, can drive them off," said Phineus.

The sons of Boreas stepped forward with their swords ready. Then the Argonauts put dinner in front of Phineus. The Harpies flew down, snatched the food with their sharp claws, and flew off with it. But this time the sons of Boreas flew after them and slashed at them with their swords, chasing them far away. "They won't bother you anymore," they said to Phineus.

"I cannot thank you enough," he replied. "You have saved my life. And now I am going to help you, for I know that you must row through the dangerous Bosphorus strait on your way through the Black Sea to

Colchis."

Phineus gave them invaluable advice, and the Argonauts set forth once more. At last they sighted the huge, jagged rocks called the Symplegades, or Clashing Islands, that guarded the entrance to the Bosphorus. Phineus had told them, "When a ship tries to go between these floating rocks, the rocks move together and smash the ship to pieces. There is only one way to get through. Let a dove fly before you, and when the rocks crush its tail, row through with all your might. Thus you will pass as the rocks separate before clashing again."

Jason let the dove go. Just as Phineus had predicted, the rocks smashed together, crushing the tip of the dove's tail. Then Jason gave the command: "Row!" The Argonauts did, and as the huge rocks drew apart, the Argo slid through safely. Jason looked back and saw the rocks smash together again. But they crushed only the very tip of the ship, which was quickly repaired. Afterward the rocks became rooted, and ever since the passageway has been safe for sailors.

THE GOLDEN FLEECE

The Argonauts rowed through the Black Sea for days. At last they anchored at Colchis, tired but excited. "Somewhere in this land, the Golden Fleece is guarded by a fierce dragon," said Jason. "I do not know how we shall find it, but find it we will. First, though, we must refresh ourselves with a long sleep."

While the Argonauts slept under the stars, Hera and Athena discussed them on Mount Olympus. "We must help Jason," they said to each other, for Jason was one of their favorite mortals. Then they both had the same idea. "Let us ask Aphrodite for her aid."

Aphrodite, goddess of love, was always happy to use her powers, and she said to her son, Eros, "I shall give you a shining toy, a ball of gold, if you do what I ask."

"Only ask," said Eros, anxious to have the toy.

"You must make the daughter of the king of Colchis fall in love with Jason. Her name is Medea, and she is a witch. Only Medea can help the Argonauts with their dangerous mission."

Eros prepared to fly down to earth while the Argonauts made their way to the palace of King Aetes of Colchis. The king greeted them courteously, as did his daughter, Medea. But King Aetes felt uneasy. He asked Jason who he and his companions were and why they had come to him. Jason replied, "We are all brave men of Greece, and we have come to ask you for the Golden Fleece. Ask us any service, and we shall perform it for you in exchange for the fleece."

King Aetes had no intention of handing over his most precious possession. And so he thought of an impossible task for the Argonauts to perform.

He said to Jason, "I shall be happy to give you the Golden Fleece. But first you must yoke to a plow two bulls that breathe fire. Then you must plow the field, and into the furrows of the earth you must sow the teeth of a dragon. These teeth are seeds from which a crop of armed men shall grow. They shall attack you and, single-handed, you must mow them down."

Jason said, "This I shall do tomorrow," although he could not imagine how he would accomplish such an impossible task.

At that moment Eros flew down to Colchis. Quickly he shot an arrow of love into Medea's heart, and from that time she could not take her eyes off Jason. Medea longed to help Jason with her magic, but she tried desperately to put aside her thoughts of him. Was he not, after all, an enemy of her father?

That night she twisted and turned in bed, torn between her love for Jason and her loyalty to her father. But Eros's arrow had done its job well, and at last she sent her servant to bring Jason to her.

In the middle of the dark night, Medea declared her love for Jason and said, "If you promise to take me as your wife, I shall help you." And Jason clasped the lovely sorceress in his arms, promising to wed her. Then Medea said to him, "Here is a magic ointment. Spread it over your body and your weapons. It will protect you from the fire-breathing bulls and the armed men who will spring up when you have sown the dragon's teeth." She also gave him a magic stone to throw among the armed men. "Now go, for there is not much time before daylight."

The next morning Jason spread the magic ointment on his body and on his spear and his shield. Then he went to the field where King Aetes and his warriors awaited the spectacle.

"Jason will be killed by the fire-breathing bulls," said the king's son, Apsyrtus.

"That is certain," said the king. "What a fool he is to undergo this ordeal."

Jason strode out onto the field, and the two fire-breathing bulls were set loose. Jason ran after them, grabbed them both by the horns, and yoked them to the plow.

"The bulls breathe fire on Jason, yet they do not even singe him," said Apsyrtus. "How can this be?"

"It is indeed strange," said the king. "But he will not be able to withstand the armed warriors who will spring up when he sows the dragon's teeth."

Jason drove the bulls across the field. The plow cut furrows in the earth. Into these Jason sowed the dragon's teeth. Instantly an army of fierce armed men sprang up and ran to attack Jason. But Jason threw the magic stone into their midst, and the men began killing one another with their spears.

King Aetes was furious. He said to his son, "Jason shall never have the Golden Fleece. Go and call our army together. Tonight, when he expects me to give him the treasure, we will attack his band of men on board their ship."

Because Medea was a sorceress she knew her father's plan. That night she stole to Jason's ship and said, "My father is planning to prevent you from capturing the Golden Fleece. You must seize it now, before he attacks you. I shall come on board and lead you to the sacred grove where the Golden Fleece hangs." The heroes rowed quietly as Medea guided them. "Now!" she said suddenly. "Stop here and pull up your ship on shore."

They did as she said. Then Medea and Jason crept ashore to the sacred grove. There they saw the Golden Fleece hanging from a tree and glistening in the moonlight. A huge, hissing dragon guarded it, but Medea sneaked up and sang it a soothing, magical lullaby. Soon the dragon was fast asleep. Jason snatched the Golden Fleece, and he and Medea ran back to the ship. The heroes rowed away as fast as they could. And not until they were several miles out to sea did Jason show them the Golden Fleece. They all marveled at the hard-won prize and praised Medea for her help in gaining it. "But how will Medea get back to the palace?" they asked.

"She is not going to leave us," said Jason. "For I have promised to marry her as soon as I can."

It was not long before King C learned that Jason and the Argonauts had rowed away with the Golden Fleece and his daughter, Medea. The king sent Apsyrtus with an army to pursue them.

Once again Medea saved the Argonauts with her trickery. She sent a message to Apsyrtus, asking him to meet her on an island. There she would give him the Golden Fleece, and then she would return with him to their father.

Jason accompanied Medea that night. When Apsyrtus arrived, Jason slew him with one stroke of his sword. Medea's robe was covered with her brother's blood, but she was so hardhearted that she did not even grieve over him.

Apsyrtus's army, now leaderless, gave up. Jason and Medea rejoined the Argonauts, and they sped toward home in the Argo.

Another story says that Medea convinced her brother to leave with her on the Arga. Her father assembled his army and chased them. As he caught up with the Arga, she killed her brother and chopped him into pieces. One by one she threw the pieces into the water. Her father, distraught, stopped to pick up the pieces of his son. This enabled the Arga to escape.

Their plight was not over with the escape from King Aetes, however. They began to run out of supplies and felt the need to stop to get some. The only island that they could stop at was guardian by the only survivor of the bronze age of men, Talos. As guardian of the island, Talos kept the Argo at bay by hurling great boulders at it. Medea convinced Talos that she would give him a secret potion that would make him immortal if he would let her stop on the island. Talos agreed and drank the potion and it made him fall asleep. Medea knew that he had one great weakness, a single vein that went from his ankle to his head that kept his body alive. Medea went to him in his sleep and pulled the plug in his ankle, whereupon Talos bled to death

THE RETURN HOME

Finally the Argo landed safely at Iolcus. "Home at last!" shouted the victorious Argonauts as Jason stepped ashore to present the Golden Fleece to King Pelias.

But Jason's joy was short-lived. To his horror, he learned that King Pelias had killed his father and that his mother had died soon after of grief.

Jason enlisted Medea's help to punish Pelias. Medea told Pelias's daughters that she had the power to make Pelias young again. In order to persuade them that she could bring this about, she cut up and boiled an old sheep together with some magic herbs. Soon a young lamb leaped out of the cauldron.

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Oh, I have had in you.

A loyal husband, to be admired of men..

An exile now, O Zeus, O Zeus.

.No one to help. I am alone."

Medea fled in her chariot drawn by dragons. And Jason was left a lonely man, mourning for his young bride-to-be and his beloved children.

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Long after Jason's death, the Golden Fleece hung in a temple of Zeus, and all of Greece could see it and remember the remarkable feats of Jason and his heroic band of Argonauts.

Question 1: Suggest a different title for this text. Why do you think that this would make a good title?

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_____

_____

Question 2: What connections can you make between the text and other texts, information, or experiences?

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Directions: Identify how the **present_progressive** is used in the sentence(s) below

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Word Roots & Stems

Rule: The suffix **less** adds "without" to the meaning of a word, like *homeless*.

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thoughtless	thought + less	He is a thoughtless boy.
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careless	_____	_____
sleepless	_____	_____
powerless	_____	_____
tasteless	_____	_____

VP Vocab Practice

Vocabulary Practice

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Directions: Use the word bank to identify the word that best completes the sentence.

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1. _____ To take or allow something.
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WRITE YOUR OWN SENTENCES

Directions: For each of the words in the box, write an original sentence using the word. Circle the vocabulary word in each sentence. Be sure to write a sentence that would help the reader better understand the meaning of the word.

accept	existence	predict	recover	rightful	pleaded
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1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

LESSON:

Aim: Grade: 7 Subject: Prepared by: Shawn McGirr

Objectives:

- Students will be able to understand, pronounce, and use the words in the vocabulary list below.
- Students will be able to demonstrate comprehension of the passage by answering questions which require basic understanding and interpretation of the content.

Standards addressed:

- Lit 1, Grade 7 - Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Lit 10, Grade 7 - By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades Lit 6.Lit 8.text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.
- Language 1, Grade 6,7,8,9,10,11,12 - The student will demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- Language 4, Grade 6,7,8,9,10,11,12 - The student will determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases.

Vocabulary:

1. accept	2. existence	3. predict	4. recover	5. rightful	6. pleaded
7. overthrown	8. constructed	9. broke	10. imprisoned	11. yield	12. survive
13. capture	14. find	15. sturdy			

Activity	Description	Differentiation Guide	Assessment
Pronunciation Practice: EY	• Introduce key phoneme with minimal pairs. • Model and emphasize pronunciation. • Individual and choral repetition.	Give students who need extra help the opportunity to practice in smaller groups or individually. Alternate choral and individual repetition, calling on individual students at random. Struggling students may need additional instruction on how to make new sounds. Some students may benefit from being challenged to think of their own minimal pair.	ALL Students will be able to demonstrate an increase in pronunciation skills by successfully pronouncing the new sound during choral or individual repetition. SOME students will be able to recognize and identify the sound in other words they know.
Introduction of vocabulary	Introduce the new words from the vocabulary list in above (see Objectives) by modeling pronunciation, individual and choral repitition. Review defintions Sample Questioning: • In your own words, explain the definition. • Who can think of a time when this word might be used? • Can you use this word in a sentence? • What's the antonym (opposite) of this word?	When appropriate, give different types of learners an opportunity to write down the new words, associate a visual image to cue to understanding of the word, or develop a physical action to increase the student's ability to remember the new words.	ALL Students will be able to increase their understanding and awareness of the new words.SOME Students will be asked to orally demonstrate knowledge of new words.

Reading & Comprehension Questions	Students will read the passages of and demonstrate comprehension of the content by question.	Depending on the population: Read the entire passage aloud, to model phrasing and fluency. Pause at key moments and model good reading strategies through a think aloud. Ask students to volunteer to read parts of the passage aloud. Instruct students to read the passage silently and complete the questions independently, while working with students who need more literacy help. Ask students to complete the questions by doing Think, Pair, Share	ALL Students will read the passage or follow along as the passage is read. ALL Students will strive to demonstrate comprehension of the passage by answering the questions. SOME students will be given an opportunity to share their answer aloud.
Grammar	Students will review the usage of and then identify simple_present in sentences from the reading. Students will write 5 original sentences using simple_present.	Give students need time to work on completing their own practice sentences for the grammatical structure. Invite early finishers to put their sentences on the board or challenge them to not only use the grammar structure, but also include the vocabulary from the lesson in their sentences.	ALL Students will be able to demonstrate an increased mastery of the grammar structure by independently writing sentences that correctly employ simple_present.
Word Building: Roots and Stems	Students will be encouraged to take away a word-attack strategy from this lesson by reviewing -y, which was used in the reading.	Students may benefit from having time to complete this portion of the worksheet individually or in pairs.	ALL students will be able to recognize the suffix -y and understand The suffix y changes a noun into an adjective, like dirty..
Practicing New Vocabulary	Students will be given a chance to practice applying new vocabulary by completing cloze sentences.	Students complete this section of worksheet independently prior to group review of the answers. When appropriate, have students work in pairs or small groups.	ALL Students will increase their familiarity with the new vocabulary and their ability to successfully use these new words in context. Students who get more than two of the cloze sentences wrong should be asked do other reinforcement (i.e. flash cards).
Summary	Instructor will review the objectives of the lesson with the class a whole.	The summary can be completed as quick discussion or by asking student to summarize in their notes.	Example quick assess: 3 new pieces of information from text, 2 new words, 1 question about what they learned.

Fill-in-the-blank Answer Key:
1) accept **2)** recover **3)** capture **4)** rightful **5)** yield **6)** survive **7)** constructed **8)** pleaded **9)** existence **10)** sturdy **11)** imprisoned **12)** predict **13)** find **15)** broke

Matching Answer Key:
A. 1
B. 9
C. 12
D. 2
E. 4
F. 8
G. 14
H. 7
I. 15
J. 11
K. 5
L. 6
M. 3
N. 13
O. 10