

May 11 - May 15, 2020

**Sixth Grade Reading Students.**

Good morning, sixth grade,

You are receiving the sixth and final digital weekly assignment from me. Complete your work and email it to me. Your work is coming in very slowly. Please remember you are required to complete all your work to get credit for the year. At this point some of you are failing for the six weeks, because I have no work from you. Not doing your work at home is the same as not doing it at school. It's a requirement for sixth grade credit.

This week your assignment is to read "The Story of Talos". He was an interesting character in Greek Mythology. Then, write a short description of him and what you have learned about him. Let's see, ½ to 1 page should be the length.

Have a good week,  
Mrs. Martin

# THE STORY OF TALLOS





**Talos** was a giant bronze man who guarded the island of **Crete** by throwing stones at the ships of unwanted visitors. He was most probably created by **Hephaestus** and given to either **Minos** or **Europa** as a gift. **Talos'** only weakness was his ankle, where the single vein containing all of his life-fluid (***ichor***, the blood of the gods) was sealed with a thin membrane of skin or a bronze nail. **Medea** exploited this weakness and killed **Talos** by bewitching him to graze his ankle on a sharp rock.

## The Nature of Talos

There are two conflicting stories as to the origin of **Talos**.

## An Automaton Cast by Hephaestus

It's only natural that the most common one links **Talos** with **Hephaestus**. After all, the celestial artificer was famed for his automata, and **Talos**, a single-veined giant made of bronze, certainly looks like one. In this case, poets say that **Talos** was a gift from **Hephaestus** to **Minos**, constructed by the former to help the first king of **Crete** guard the island from invaders.

trees, i.e., the only remaining survivor of the Brazen Race, the third of the five **ages of man**. As such, he was presented to **Europa** by **Zeus** as a token of his love for her.

## Portrayal

Some say that **Talos** wasn't a man at all and that he was, in fact, fashioned as either a bronze bull or a man with a bull's head.

Either way, his body had a single vein, which ran all the way from his neck to his ankle, sealed there with either a bronze nail or a thin membrane of skin.

Through this vein, all of **Talos**' life-fluid, **ichor** – the blood of the gods – ran, making the giant vulnerable the same way **Achilles** was: for all of his frame of bronze, and all of his strength and might, he faced certain death if one merely punctured his ankle.

## **Medea and the Death of Talos**

**Talos**' task was relatively simple: to run around **Crete** three times a day and repel unwelcomed visitors by either hurling huge stones at their ships or by heating himself red hot and then enfolding them in a fiery embrace.

As **Jason** and the **Argonauts** approached the shores of **Crete**, **Talos** noticed their ship and tried warding it off in his usual, ever effective manner. And who knows – he might have been successful yet again, had **Medea** not traveled on the *Argo* as well!

Fearless, she mounted on the deck of the ship, and after invoking the Death-spirits (the **Keres**) several times, she bewitched the eyes of **Talos** in such a manner that the bronze man was unable to see before him a sharp crag on which he, subsequently, grazed his ankle. The **ichor** gushed forth like melted lead, and **Talos** fell on the ground with the mighty thud of a huge pine.

Others say that **Medea** was even more courageous, climbing down from the Argo and bravely walking toward the bronze giant. Once near him, she tricked **Talos** by either promising him immortality or giving him some of her herbs, after which she quickly pulled out the bronze nail beneath the sinew by his ankle.

Yet a third group claims that **Medea** had nothing to do with **Talos'** death and that the guardian of **Crete** was actually killed when Poeas, an Argonaut and a brilliant archer, shot **Talos** dead in the ankle.

