

Comparing Failure in Different Interpretations of “The Story of Daedalus and Icarus”

I. The Prompt

Many authors have drawn on and transformed Ovid’s original myth of Daedalus and Icarus. After reading the source text (Ovid) and the three interpretations (Bruegel, Williams, and Auden), write a well-developed essay that explains how the different depictions of Icarus’ death establish the central idea of man’s failure. Be sure to compare each interpretation to the source text, including what is present and omitted in the interpretation. Use grade-level words and phrases to add voice and style to your response.

II. Making the Comparison

Work and Author	What does the work say about man’s failure?	What details of the source text are included?	What details of the source text are omitted?

III. Outlining the Response

Take time to outline your essay considering:

How will you organize your paragraphs? _____

What should be included in your introduction? _____

What should be included in the conclusion? _____

What types of phrases do you plan to use? _____

IV. Revising the Response

Complete the following checklist before turning in your essay.

- I've addressed all parts of the prompt (concept of failure, each text is compared to the source).
- I've used a variety of sentence beginnings and endings.
- I've used the phrases I identified in the outline.
- I've listed each work and its author, punctuated correctly.
- I've use descriptive word choice, spelled correctly.