

Icarus and 'D'

A play for Fly High Stories @Home

By Helen Eastman

This play is based on an ancient Greek myth from thousands of years ago. It's about a child called Icarus, and their parent (who was called Daedalus, but we've called him/her 'D')

The play is for two actors.

In the second half of the play Icarus and D wear wings. You might like to make some pairs of wings before you start. Or they could be completely imaginary.

When the characters fly, they look down on the world and it is really small. Perhaps you'd like to draw a picture of the world from up high and use it as the floor of your stage.

There are a few gaps in the script I need you to fill in. Be as imaginative as you can!

The story starts when Icarus and D are trapped in a jail together. They've been there for a while.

Characters:

Icarus	A child
D	A parent

Icarus

What are you doing?

D I've made a new invention to get us out of here.

Icarus Oh no.

D What do you mean, oh no?

Icarus Is it like when you invented a catapult to throw us out of the window?

Or a super-sonic-laser-hacker to cut through the wall?

Or a _____?

Or a _____?

(add in here the craziest inventions you can think of)

D They were great ideas!

Icarus But they didn't work.

D Well, they nearly worked.

But this is even better.

Icarus We have to get out of here.

D I miss football. I miss crispy fried onions.

Icarus I miss _____

and _____

and _____.

(Fill in the gaps. What is Icarus missing?)

D I know, Icarus. I'm sorry I got us locked up here.

Icarus It's not your fault.

D When the King asked me to create the bestest ever maze

I didn't realise he was then going to lock me up

so I couldn't tell anyone the secret of how to get out.

Icarus Bet you can't even remember.

then the... D Of course I can, you take a left, then a right, then two lefts,

Or was it a right? Or, no, that was on the way back...

Icarus The King needn't have worried.

D Oh dear.

Icarus So what is the great invention to get us out this time?

D Wait for it..... (*he creates a drum roll with his hands*)

Wings.

Icarus Wings?

D We are going to fly out of here.

Icarus Fly? No way. I hate heights.

D I've been studying the birds out of the window.

I've calculated lift, drag, wing-span and created us...

Super-wings!!!

I also covered them in glitter so they are super-stylish.

Icarus No, no, no, no, no, no, no.

D Let's practice our technique. Stand up.

(They stand up, ready to practice.)

Warm up. Stretch up. Stretch down. Touch toes.

Swing your arms like a windmill.

Wiggle your legs like a _____.

Jump up and down like a _____.

Marvellous.

Icarus I'm exhausted.

D It is all about confidence.

Repeat after me.

‘I can fly’.

Icarus

What?

D

Repeat after me.

‘I can fly’.

Icarus

But I can’t.

D

Not a helpful attitude.

Say it.

Icarus

‘I can fly’.

D

Louder.

Icarus

‘I can fly’.

D

Louder.

Icarus

(very loudly) ‘I can fly’

D Sing it.

Icarus *(sings)* 'I can fly'

D Rap it.

Icarus I'm the bestest flier, apart from all those birds.
I'm all about the action, not just about the words.
Way up high, in the sky, see me glide, watch me soar,
This super-star's flying like you've never seen before.

(You might like to make up another verse to this)

D Brilliant. You are ready.

Now we put on the wings.

(They put on their wings)

D *(singing)* Ready to flap? Ready to fly? Let's hit the sky.

(They start to flap their wings.)

D Stop, stop, stop. There's something I forgot.

(Icarus doesn't stop flapping)

D I mean it – listen.

Don't fly too close to the sun.

The feathers are held on with wax. The sun's heat will melt the wax.

Then the feathers will fall off.

(Icarus is flapping his wings faster)

Icarus What?

D Seriously. Listen. Don't fly too close to the sun.

Icarus Whatever...

(Icarus is flapping his wings faster, faster, faster)

Icarus Lift off!

D I'm coming... Wait for me...

(D flaps frantically to catch up)

(How might you stage their flying? Maybe they stand on chairs. Or maybe it is all in the audience's imagination. Or you may like to use puppets to play the characters while they fly. Perhaps you can add some music while they are flying to set the atmosphere. Try out some ideas)

Icarus I really can fly!

D Told you

Icarus Look down there. Everything looks tiny.

The people look like ants.

D I can see _____.

Icarus Look, it's _____.

D We did it!

Icarus We escaped.

D We are free!!!

Together *(they sing)*

We are flying free

You and me.

On an adventure together.

We are swooping free

You and me

Exploring forever

Way up high

Blue sky

White clouds

Sun beating down...

D *(interrupting)*

Woah! Wait. Sun. Sun.

We mustn't get too close. Remember.

Let's fly down.

Icarus No way. I'm looping the loop. Flipping the flips.

This is amazing. Check out my tricks!

D No really. Stop, stop, stop.

Too high.

Icarus This is super-brilliant-fantabulous.

(What other wonderful words does Icarus have to describe flying?)

D What's this?

(A single feather has fallen from Icarus' wing)

D It's a feather. You are losing your wings.
The wax is melting.
We are...

Icarus Falling.

D Falling.

Icarus Falling.

D Falling.

Icarus We're going to end up in the sea.

D Agggghhhhhh.

Icarus Good job we're both excellent swimmers, eh?

D I hate cold water.

Icarus I'll race you to land. Butterfly stroke.

D What is the moral of this story, Icarus?

Icarus What?!? Now??

D If your parent says don't fly too close to the sun, then...

Icarus No. The moral is, if your parent says strap on some home-made wings and jump out of the window, say 'no'. Put them to bed. Make them a cup of tea. Clearly isolation is getting to them.

D We're about to hit the water.

Icarus See you on the beach!

The End