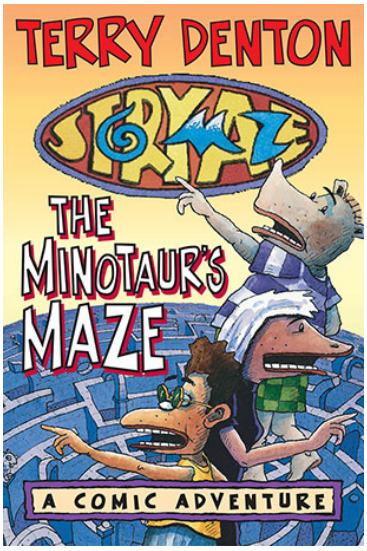
Lynnette Lounsbury, "Entry on: Story Maze. The Minotaur’s Maze (Story Maze, 5) by Terry Denton", peer-reviewed by Elizabeth Hale and Daniel A. Nkemleke. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/85. Entry version as of September 14, 2026.

Terry Denton

Story Maze. The Minotaur’s Maze (Story Maze, 5)

Australia (2003)

TAGS: Ariadne Chorus Daedalus Icarus Ithaca Knossos Labyrinth Maze Midas Minotaur



Terry Denton's *Story Maze 5: The Minotaur’s Maze* (Sydney: Allen & Unwin Children's Books, 2003). Courtesy of the Publisher.

General information	
Title of the work	Story Maze. The Minotaur’s Maze (Story Maze, 5)
Country of the First Edition	Australia
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2003
First Edition Details	Terry Denton, *Story Maze. The Minotaur’s Maze*. Sydney: Allen & Unwin Children's Books, 2003, 144 pp.
ISBN	9781741140880
Genre	Action and adventure comics, Comics (Graphic works), Fantasy fiction, Fiction, Fractured fairytales*, Humor, Illustrated works
Target Audience	Children
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This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children’s and Young Adults’ Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of “Artes Liberales” of the University of Warsaw.

Creators

Terry Denton , b. 1950
(Author)

Born the youngest of five boys in Melbourne, Australia, Terry Denton loved art from a young age and drew constantly in his spare time. He studied architecture at Melbourne University, was a comedic theatre actor and regularly created cartoons for the University newspapers. After University he spent time on his art working in animation, painting, etching, sculpture, cartooning and shop window design. In 1984 he wrote and illustrated *Felix and Alexander* which was published in 1985 and won the Australian Children's Book Council Picture Book of the Year in 1986. Since then he has written and/or illustrated more than 100 books, including the *Gasp!* books and TV series, the *Wombat and Fox* books, and the *Bumper Books* (1, 2 and 3). He began collaborating with Australian writer Andy Griffiths in 1997 and they developed the *Just!* series, followed by *The Cat on the Mat is Flat*, *The Bad Books* and more recently the hugely successful children's comedy series *The Treehouse* books-13, 26, 39, 52, 65 and 78. He has won more than fifteen children's choice awards throughout Australia and another 40 more with Andy Griffiths. These include the Australian awards – The Multicultural Book of the Year, Best Designed Picture Book, Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Award 2014 and The Australia Book Industry Association Book of the Year for older readers in both 2012, 2013 and 2015.

In 1991 he worked for the Australian Children's Television Foundation on the TV show *Lift-Off,* spending two years planning the program and designing the puppets. Terry does many school visits throughout the year holding both writing and artistic workshops. He is also a fine artist and has held several exhibitions in Melbourne.

Sources:

Official website (accessed: July 3, 2018).

Morriss, Maureen, "Highlights of the 1995 Children's Book of the Year shortlist [Book Review]" [online], *The Australian Journal of Language*

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and Literacy 18.3 (1995): 219–227.

Winner of the 2015 ABIA book of the year [online], *Incite* 36.6/7 (2015): 12–13.

Profile at the thelitcentre.org.au (accessed: March 3, 2018).

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Additional information

Sequels, Prequels and Spin-offs

Previous book: *Story Maze* (Series, Book 4): *The Golden Udder*.

Next book: *Story Maze* (Series, Book 6): *The Obelisk of Eno.*

Summary

The fifth book in the "Storymaze" series follows the surfing adventures of Nico, Claudia, and Mikey through parallel worlds and across the universe. The story begins with the trio winning a holiday to the tropical planet of Knossos. The story diverges into two paths at this point, as it has in the other episodes, whenever the trio attempt time travel. Their time travel device fractures times leaving them in two alternate realities. One puts them at a weight loss spa and the other at a weight gain spa. The first reality becomes the main story when they meet King Minos who owns the spa and he hosts the holiday they have won. After a few days Nico and Mikey are so desperate to eat meat that they sneak out of a nearby burger place and while eating are told about the Minotaur's Maze. The Minotaur, a bull-headed man born to the Queen has been trapped in a nearby maze, built by the legendary Daedelus for the protection of the Kingdom. The trio decides to try and find out why the minotaur is imprisoned and discover it is because he is incredibly handsome, something the ugly Knossians find disturbing. Claudia is determined to rescue the Minotaur and the three attempt the maze, but are unable to find their way through. All attempts to go over, around, and through fail. Nico quits to go surfing, but Claudia and Mikey meet a talking spider named "Charlotte" who offers to lead them to the center of the maze. Nico nearly drowns and has to be rescued by Ariadne, the King's daughter. The two of them follow the spider's web and meet Claudia and Mikey in the center of the maze just as they find the minotaur. The creature is angry but calmed by Ariadne who speaks for her new friends. After they calm the beast, they convince him to leave the maze and explore life outside, but they realize that they no longer know how to get out of the maze. Nico remembers another story from his schooling – that of Icarus and Daedalus – and the group plan an escape out and out over the maze by building their own wings. The group flies out of the maze and while the trio of heroes escapes unharmed to a nearby island, the Minotaur flies too close to the sun, melting the wax on his wings and plummeting into the ocean. He is unable to swim and is attacked by killer dolphins and man-eating sardines. He does not survive. The

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	story finishes with the narrator describing the various broken hearts left behind after the story – those who have loved and lost because of the maze.
Analysis	Graphic novel for children, with a science-fiction and comedy approach to classical myth and antiquity. *The Minotaur's Maze* is similar in style to the other books in the "Storymaze" series in its engagement with myth, in particular Greek myth. In this case, there are two levels of mythological storytelling - the subverted Minotaur myth with its tenuous connection to the original tale; and the Icarus tale, which is a direct re-telling of the original myth. The story is once again fractured by various "choose-your-own-adventure" options and there are various endings to the choices the reader makes. This particular story has a greater focus on tragic love than the others, though it has been a recurring motif. Many of the characters love someone who does not or cannot love them back and the narrator makes comment on the nature of tragedy and broken heartedness. The overarching story is that of the Minotaur who is imprisoned because of his physical appearance but who, when he finally braves the world, is unable to cope (flies too high) and ends up drowning (or being eaten, it is not clear). It is a fusion of two myths and the final product, while manic and convoluted, has a clearer arc than many of the other *Storymaze* tales. It features again the chorus-style narrator who comments on the action but also makes judgments about the characters and their choices.
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Ariadne Chorus Daedalus Icarus Ithaca Knossos Labyrinth Maze Midas Minotaur
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth	Adventure Future Humour Science Sport

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Culture

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