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Before We Read

MY LEARNING GOALS

I can

- tell what I know about Greek myths.
- recognize an author's purpose and tone.

Racing for the Prize

The ancient Greeks told many stories about their gods and goddesses. These myths often told of disagreements, betrayals, war, personality conflicts, and love between the gods, goddesses, and humans. The Greek gods were ruled by Zeus, their king, who was the most powerful god. He ruled the air and sky and could throw lightning bolts. His brothers were also powerful gods. Poseidon, god of the sea, ruled the ocean, while Hades presided over the underworld. Many of the myths about Greek gods and goddesses have several versions, which changed based on who told the tale. Some myths are used to explain something in nature or to teach a lesson.



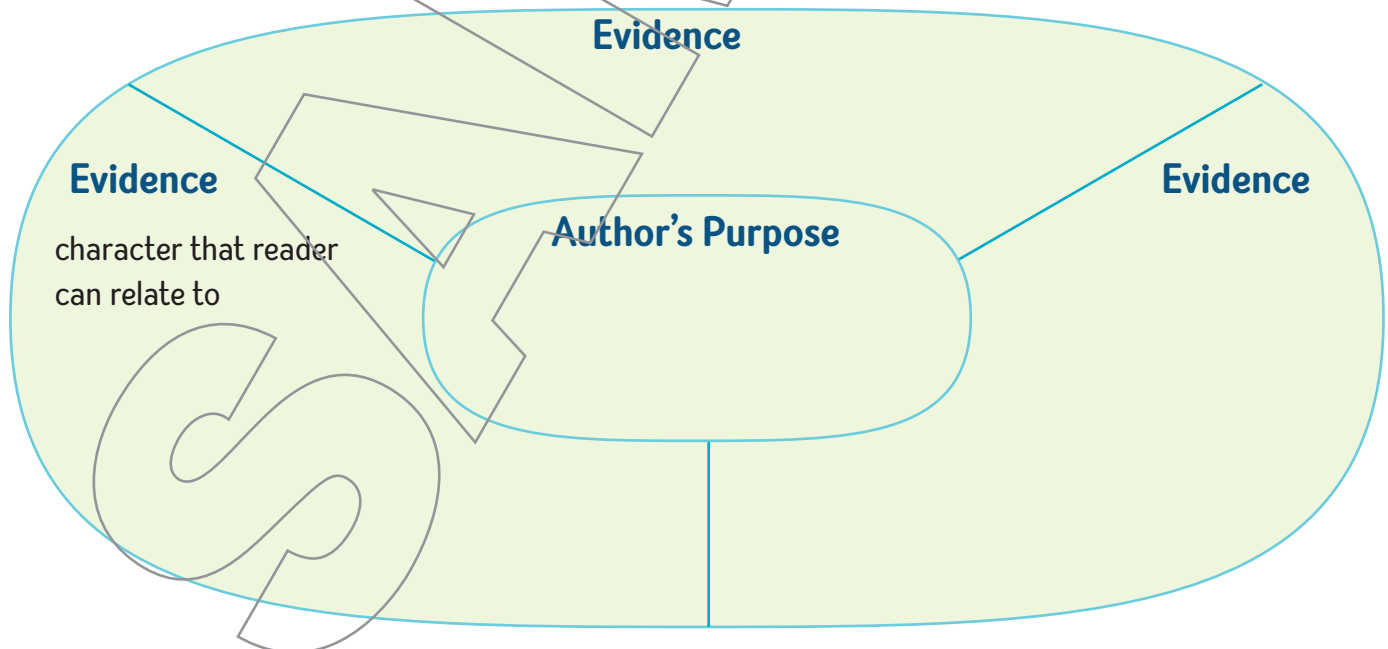
Recognizing Author's Purpose

Authors have many different reasons for writing. Look for clues in the way the author presents information, the details the author includes, and the author's use of language. A selection with facts and details is usually meant to inform. A selection with directions is often meant to instruct. A selection with many opinions is usually meant to persuade. Most stories and poems are meant to entertain, although they may have another purpose as well. An author may use a certain tone to help accomplish the main purpose.

That day Sarah Macklin was grateful that her seat was so near the door. When the bell rang, she was able to make her quick exit, trying to hide her tears. Even in the crowds of students, she was too tall to hide, though. That summer she had shot up. She had returned

to school the tallest girl in seventh grade, and her frizzy hair made her even taller. Her mom insisted that she was pretty, but even on her best day, Sarah felt trapped in the wrong body. And today was not her best day.

Fill in the chart based on the paragraph above.





MY LEARNING GOALS

I can

- read and understand a Greek myth.
- recognize author's purpose and tone.

The Tale of Atalanta

a myth from ancient Greece

Iasus, King of Arcadia, badly wanted a son. When his wife, Clymene, gave birth to a daughter instead, the king was so enraged that he left the baby in the forest to die. But Artemis, goddess of hunting and protector of women, sent a she-bear to take care of the girl. The girl lived with the bear until a group of hunters found her. They named her Atalanta and raised her to womanhood. Like Artemis, Atalanta became a great hunter, and there was no one in all the land, man or woman, who could run faster than she.



Highlight the reason that King Iasus left Atalanta in the forest.



What is something that you are very good at doing?

I am very good at _____.



In those days, a fierce, giant boar was ravaging the country of Calydon. A young prince of the land, Meleager, gathered a group of heroes to hunt the boar. Among those he chose was Atalanta. Other members of the party objected to a woman joining them. But Meleager had fallen in love with Atalanta, and he insisted on her presence. As for Atalanta, she loved him too, though she kept it a secret and had refused his offer of marriage. But she readily joined him in the hunt for the boar. It was she who loosed the first arrow to pierce the animal's thick hide. Though Meleager was the one who eventually slew the boar, he awarded the pelt to Atalanta for this feat. The other hunters became jealous. At the first opportunity, they plotted to kill Meleager using wicked magic.

Grief-stricken, Atalanta had nowhere to go, so she returned to King Iasus's country. The boar hunt had made her famous. The king who had once set her out to die was now proud of her and acknowledged her as his daughter.



Underline the words that tell why Meleager's followers became jealous.



How do you think Atalanta felt about going back to her father's country?

Atalanta felt _____ because _____.

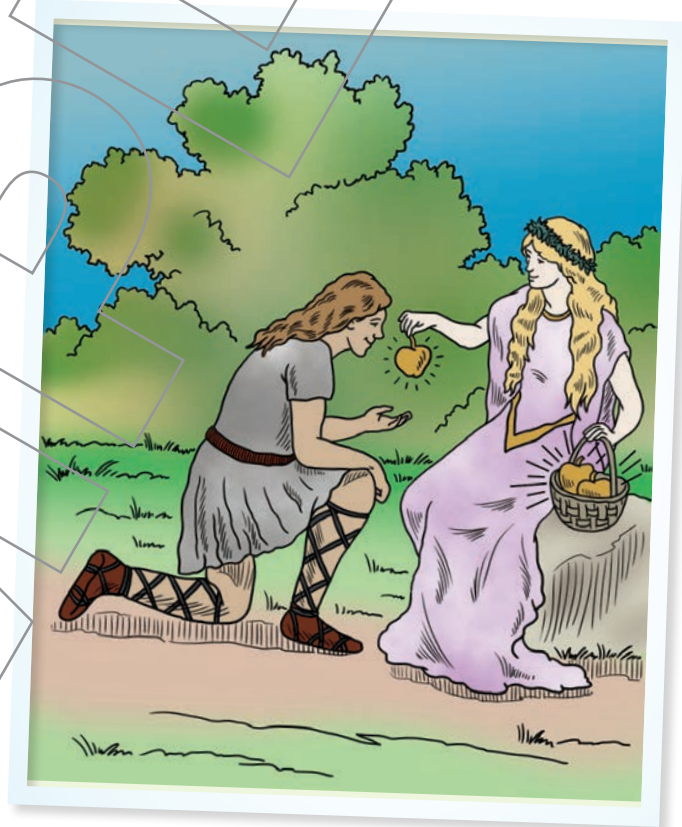


Let's Read

Atalanta's father insisted that, since she was a princess, she must marry. Atalanta felt that marriage would be a betrayal of Meleager. She came up with a plan that would keep her single. She told her father that she would marry the first man who could beat her in a footrace. Any man who tried to beat her and failed would be killed. After a few of the leading athletes of the land met their deaths trying to outrun her, none dared to challenge her.

But then a young runner named Hippomenes fell in love with Atalanta. He declared that he would race her for her hand in marriage. Atalanta too found him agreeable—so much so that she begged him not to race her. But Hippomenes insisted.

As he knew he could not beat her in a fair race, Hippomenes prayed for help to Aphrodite, goddess of love. The goddess gave him three golden apples and told him to drop them one at a time during the race to distract Atalanta. Aphrodite assured him the golden apples were irresistible.



Highlight Atalanta's plan to avoid getting married.



Why did Atalanta ask Hippomenes not to race?

Atalanta did not want _____.



On the day of the race, Hippomenes carefully hid the golden apples in his robe. He and Atalanta lined up to begin the race. Quick as lightning, they both shot away from the starting line. As Atalanta moved ahead of Hippomenes, he quickly took a golden apple and rolled it in front of her. Atalanta immediately changed course to follow the golden apple, and Hippomenes took the lead. As soon as the golden apple was in her hand, Atalanta looked back at the racecourse. Seeing Hippomenes ahead of her, she quickly resumed the race, gaining on him. Two more times Atalanta took the lead, and two more times Hippomenes rolled a golden apple into her sight. As Atalanta retrieved the third apple, she glanced up to see Hippomenes cross the finish line.

Now, some say that the young woman really did pick up the apples because they were irresistible. But others say that she slowed deliberately to pick up the apples because she wanted him to win. All agree, however, that Hippomenes won the race, and he and Atalanta were wed.



Circle the word that means “on purpose.”



How did Hippomenes win the race?

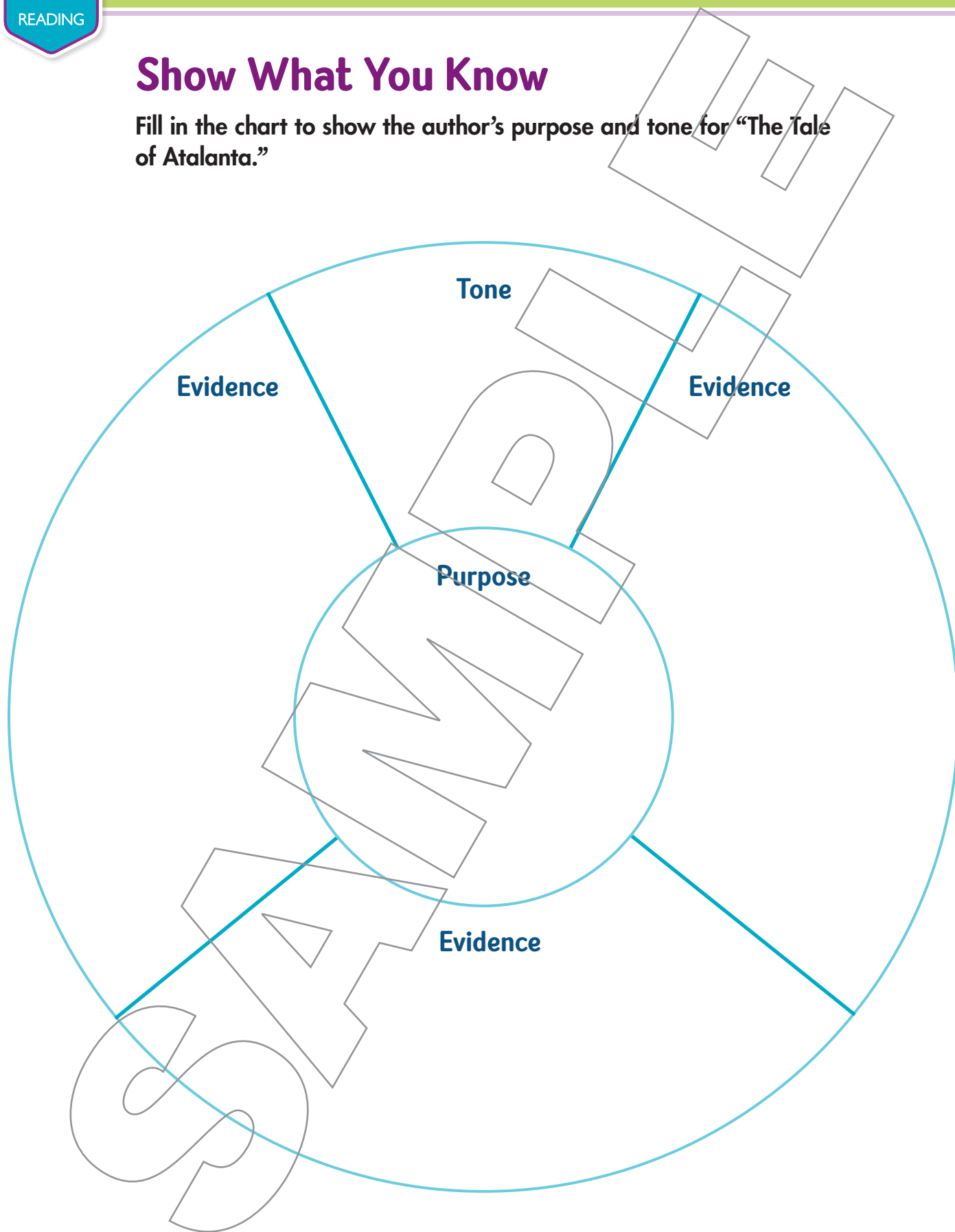
To win the race, Hippomenes _____.



Let's Read

Show What You Know

Fill in the chart to show the author's purpose and tone for "The Tale of Atalanta."





What Did You Learn?

Think about what you learned from the passage. Then circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. What is the main purpose of the first paragraph of the story?
 - A to show how wicked King Iasus is
 - B to describe the setting of the story
 - C to praise the goddess Artemis
 - D to explain Atalanta's powers
2. Which of these things helps you identify this story as a myth?
 - A A young girl is a very fast runner.
 - B A king is upset because he doesn't have a son.
 - C A young man receives help from a goddess.
 - D A young man uses magic apples.
3. Why did Atalanta not want to get married?
 - A She was angry with her father.
 - B She wanted to be a hunter.
 - C She hoped to rule the country by herself.
 - D She was still sad because Meleager died.
4. Who gave Hippomenes the golden apples?
 - A Aphrodite
 - B Artemis
 - C Clymene
 - D Meleager



Listen and Discuss

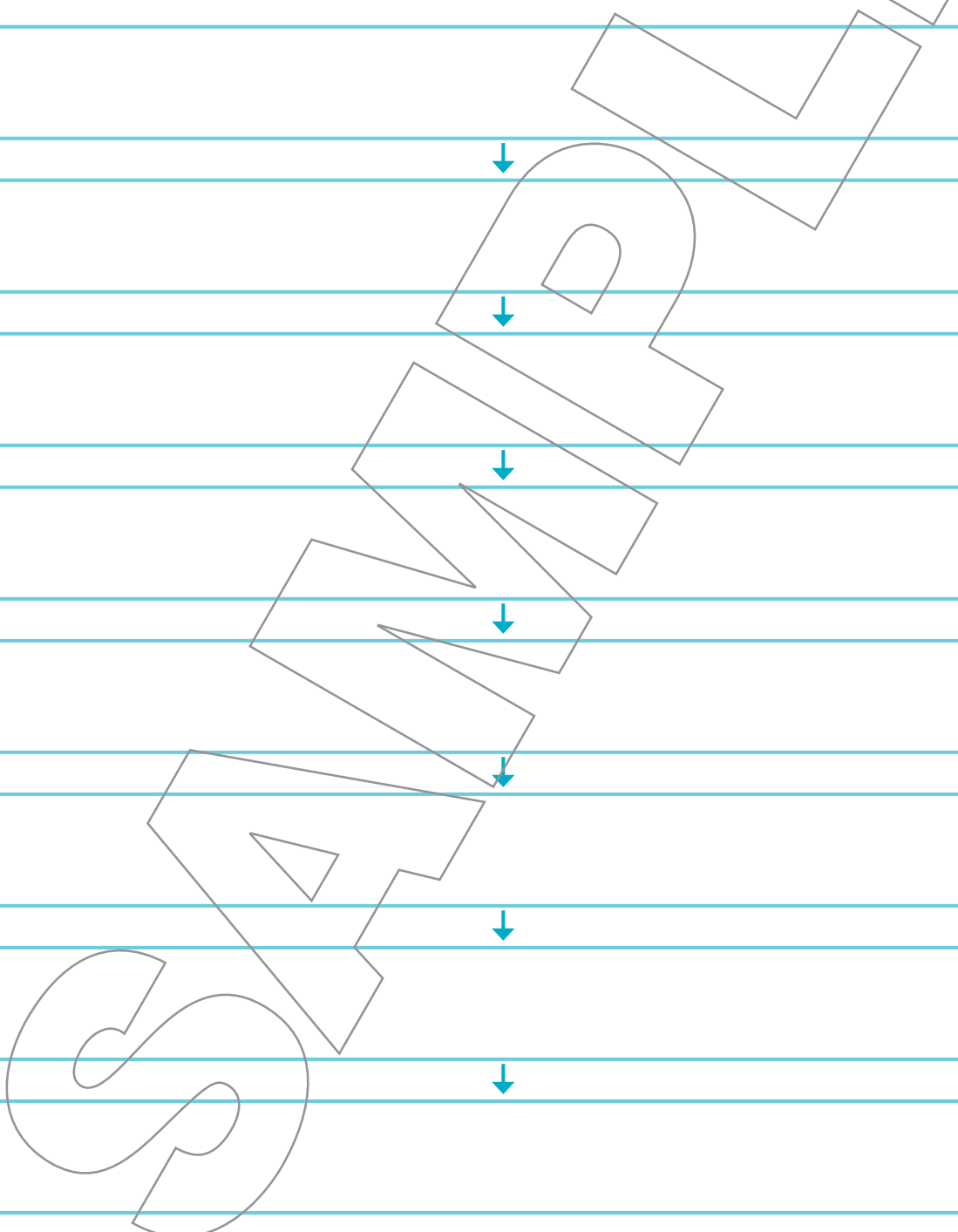
MY LEARNING GOALS

I can

- listen to and understand a story about a race.
- use language to discuss a story.

Listen to a story about a team of girls and a race. While you listen the second time, take notes about the sequence of events on the chart below.

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	



Listen and Discuss



Why did the girls feel so confident that they would win the race?



...



I can

- identify and use subject and object pronouns.
- identify a pronoun's antecedent.

Pronouns and Antecedents

A **pronoun** is a word that takes the place of a noun. A subject pronoun is used in the subject of the sentence. An object pronoun is used after an action verb and after a preposition.

	Subject Pronouns	Object Pronouns
Singular	I, you, he, she, it	me, you, him, her, it
Plural	we, you, they	us, you, them

The noun that the pronoun stands for is called its **antecedent**.

After **Hippomenes** received the **apples**, **he** hid **them** in his robe.

Read these sentences from the passage. Then underline the pronouns in each sentence. Draw an arrow from each pronoun to its antecedent.

1. The king was so enraged that he left the baby in the forest to die.
2. Other members of the party objected to a woman joining them.
3. Grief-stricken, Atalanta had nowhere to go, so she returned to King Iasus's country.
4. As Atalanta moved ahead of Hippomenes, he quickly took a golden apple and rolled it in front of her.
5. Now, some say that the young woman really did pick up the apples because they were irresistible.

Learning About Language

Complete each sentence by writing the correct pronoun in the blank.

1. Heidi baked the cookies, and then she placed _____ on a plate.
2. Amon asked Dad, "Will _____ help me with my homework?"
3. Before the students entered the classroom, _____ stood in a line.
4. The baseball flew into the window and shattered _____.
5. I do not know if Lena is coming, but I will ask _____.
6. After my brother and I found a campsite, _____ set up our tent.

Use each noun and pronoun pair in one or two sentences. The noun should be the antecedent for the pronoun.



1. photographer, she

2. basketball players, them

3. dog, it



Write About It

MY LEARNING GOALS

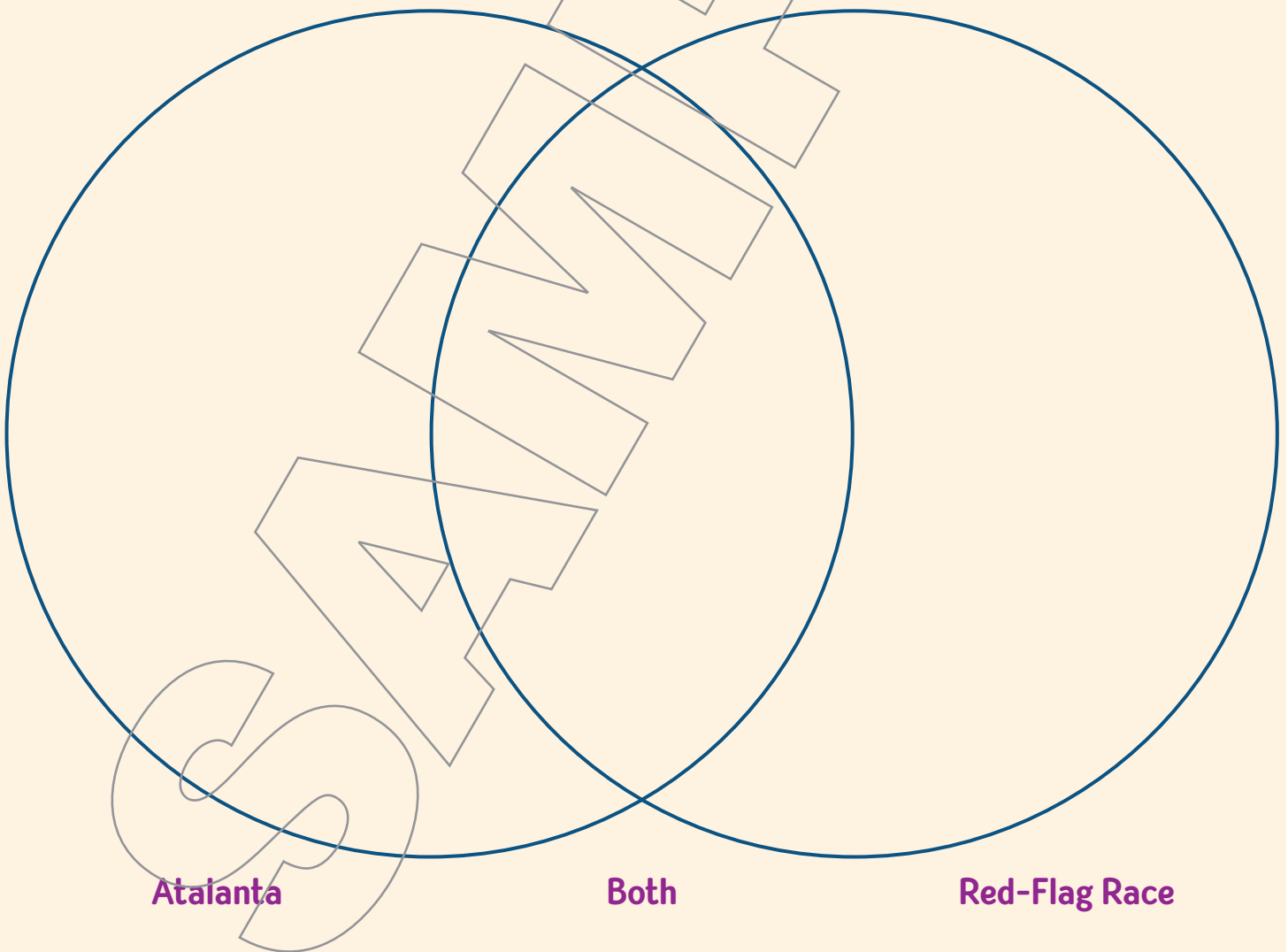
I can

- compare and contrast two stories.
- use language to write about stories.

When you compare two things, you tell what is the same about them. When you contrast, you tell what is different. Think about the myth you read and the realistic fiction story you heard in this lesson. Write a paragraph comparing and contrasting the stories.

Plan My Writing

Use this Venn diagram to plan your writing. Write the differences in the outer parts of the diagram. Write the similarities in the middle.



Write About It



The stories “The Tale of Atalanta” and “The Red-Flag Race” are both about _____

These stories are not the same, though. “The Tale of Atalanta” is _____

It tells about _____

In this story, _____

The main character _____

“The Red-Flag Race” is _____

It tells about _____

In this story, _____

The main character _____

Both of the stories _____

At the end of both stories, _____

_____, but _____
