

1/PELIAS: I am Pelias. I cannot sleep at night. Every day I worry about the appearance of the man with one sandal. The oracle told me I would be killed by a relative, and that I should be careful of a man wearing one sandal.

READER 2: Pelias should have had difficulty sleeping at night, for he had overthrown and imprisoned his brother, who was the real king. Pelias now ruled in his brother's place.

READER 3: What Pelias did not know was that his brother had a son named Jason who had been hidden and brought up in the ways of a king.

4/JASON: The time has come for me to take the throne which is rightfully mine. I will cross the river and go to the palace of Pelias.

READER 5: As Jason stepped into the water, an old woman called to him, asking him to carry her across the river.

4/JASON: I will be happy to carry you to the other side. The water is high and the current is swift.

READER 6: In carrying the old woman across the river, Jason lost one of his sandals in the mud. When he entered the town, he caused quite a stir.

READER 2: Jason was extremely handsome, muscular, and he walked with the bearing of a king. He also wore only one sandal. News spread quickly, for all had heard of the prediction of the oracle.

1/PELIAS: Hello, what is your business here?

4/JASON: I am Jason, son of your brother, and the rightful heir to the throne. You may keep the wealth you have gained, but I want the crown.

READER 3: Pelias had to think of a way to get rid of Jason. He feared Jason, a relative, would be the one to kill him. He came up with a plan.

1/PELIAS: I will gladly give you the throne, but first prove yourself worthy by capturing the golden fleece and returning it to our country. The fleece is ours and should be here.

4/JASON: I will be honored to perform that duty. I will need a ship. Who is your best shipbuilder?

1/PELIAS: The finest craftsman is Argos. He is a master shipbuilder.

4/JASON: He will build the vessel. I will ask all who are brave and desire adventure to join me. This is a noble quest.

READER 5: Argos built the ship which was the finest ship ever seen. The ship was named the Argo.

READER 6: Heroes from all over Greece joined Jason in his quest for the fleece. Hercules, Nestor, and Orpheus were among those who set sail with Jason. The sailors were called Argonauts.

READER 2: Their journey was filled with perils. They faced many difficulties and overcame them all.