

The Cruel Tribute (from Old Greek Stories)

James Baldwin

How does the opening make negotiation feel like a choice made under coercion?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	The Cruel Tribute - I. The Treaty

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	Minos, king of Crete, had made war upon Athens.
END	Then AEgeus, the king of Athens, with the twelve elders who were his helpers, went out to see King Minos and to treat with him.
PASSAGE ID	sec-crueltribute-01

THE MOVE

Distinguish a voluntary agreement from a choice constrained by power

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The passage moves from military destruction to a meeting called a treaty, but the sequence matters. Athens is already surrounded, its countryside damaged, and its people threatened. Reading the order of events closely reveals that the coming agreement is shaped by coercion rather than equal bargaining.

MARK

Underline actions Minos has already taken. Circle the future threats he makes. Box the sentence where the Athenians go out to treat with him. Number the pressures in the order they appear.

NOTICE

- What has Minos done before any negotiation begins?
- What does he threaten to do next?

- How does that context change the meaning of the word treat?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does the opening make negotiation feel like a choice made under coercion? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

The opening makes negotiation coercive because Minos first demonstrates overwhelming force and threatens even greater destruction. The Athenians go out to negotiate only after their alternatives have been narrowed by military pressure.

EVIDENCE

Use one completed act of destruction and one threatened consequence from the passage.

WATCH FOR

Do not assume that the presence of negotiation means both sides have equal power.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 7 · LESSON 281

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Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

Minos, king of Crete, had made war upon Athens.

END

Then AEgeus, the king of Athens, with the twelve elders who were his helpers, went out to see King Minos and to treat with him.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline actions Minos has already taken. Circle the future threats he makes. Box the sentence where the Athenians go out to treat with him. Number the pressures in the order they appear.
2. NOTICE What has Minos done before any negotiation begins? What does he threaten to do next? How does that context change the meaning of the word treat?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: How does the opening make negotiation feel like a choice made under coercion?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.