Jason and the Argonauts

The peaceful reign was shattered when Pelias (King Aeson’s half-brother) and his vast army stormed the Kingdom of Iolcos. Knowing that they were too powerful to defeat, King Aeson ordered his queen to escape and take the young prince to safety.

Having brutally stolen the throne, Pelias began his rule of terror. Uncertain, however, about his future, Pelias questioned his oracle, “How long will I reign? Read the signs and tell me.”

“A stranger will come to this kingdom wearing only one sandal,” explained the oracle looking intensely at the king, “and this man will take your throne.”

Pelias frowned. Who could this man possibly be? He fell silent for a while and then bellowed, “If any man is seen wearing only one sandal, he will be killed at once!”

In the meantime, the queen had fulfilled King Aeson’s wishes and left Jason to be cared for by Chiron (the centaur). Chiron had trained some of the greatest heroes in the land and it was hoped that he would help to guide Jason. As Jason grew, it soon became clear, however, that he had many lessons to learn.

One afternoon, Chiron approached his students and proclaimed, “In today’s lesson, you will learn what it means to work together.” With that, Chiron showed them a rope.

“Why?” muttered Jason, shaking his head and rolling his eyes, “What use does a hero have for that?”

“I will show you,” explained Chiron patiently, “take this rope.”

“You against all of us?” sneered Jason, unable to hide his disbelief that Chiron would even try to take on such a challenge alone. Quickly, Jason and the rest of his team positioned themselves ready for the tug-of-war against Chiron - all confident that they would easily win.

Smiling to himself knowingly, Chiron told his students that they would soon see.