Literature 11
A Cruel King
and
The Death of Decius

Greece

Read "A Cruel King" You will find it on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive in Volume 3, Classics, "Legends of Greece and Rome" by G. H. Kupfer, no.20. In this story you will meet Aegeus (Αιγέας), one of the mythical kings of Athens who gave his name to the Aegean sea, his son Theseus (Θησεύς) also considered one of the founders of Athens, and King Minos (Μίνως), the first king of Crete. The story continues for a couple more episodes as the plot unravels.

2 Rome

Read "The Death of Decius." You will find it on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive in Volume 4, "Stories from the History of Rome" no.13. This story records the two famous episodes in the life of Publius Decius Mus (fl. c. 340BC). The Romans had a great respect for those who faced death unflinchingly for their country and we can see elements of Stoic philosophy here which will be coming up this week in our Classical Thought lessons. Although there definitely was a Roman Consul of the name Publius Decius Mus, modern historians are not agreed about how much truth there is in the stories related about him here which are based on the account by the Roman historian Titus Livy (64 or 59BC – 12 or 17AD) who wrote hundreds of years after the event.

Vocabulary (don't forget to keep writing new vocabulary in your indexed notebook):

copiae, copiarum – forces, troops
This noun is plural only. There is no form of the word meaning "a troop" or "a force."
An non Æthiopum illorum et Lybium illorum **copiae** *numerosae curribus, et equitibus quamplurimum? tamen quum innitereris Iehova, tradidit eas in manum tuam.* 2 Chronicles 16:8 (Tremellius' translation)
You will spot "Jehovah" and "Ethiopians" and guess the word *numerosae* that goes with *copiae*. *Non* is easy too. Can you see the word for hand?