

Perseus and Medusa

Perseus lived alone with his mother. His father had died when he was a baby. The King of the land was evil and nobody liked him. The problem was that he wanted to marry Perseus's mother. Perseus told the King that this was not possible. The King was angry and thought of a plan to get rid of Perseus. 'Bring me the head of the monster Medusa' said the King, 'and I will not bother your mother again.'



Medusa and her sisters the Gorgons were scary indeed. Instead of hair, they had snakes coming out of their heads. If anyone so much as looked at their faces, then they would become stone.



Perseus needed help to defeat Medusa. He went to see a wise man. The man gave Perseus a shield which was just like a mirror. Next, he gave him a crystal sword strong enough to cut off the monster's head. The wise man told Perseus that he would also need some flying sandals, a helmet to make him invisible and a silver bag to put Medusa's head in. The wise man said that Perseus should go and find the three witches that lived at Mount Atlas. They would give him the objects that he needed.

At first, the witches would not help Perseus. But then Perseus noticed that they only had one eye between them and he quickly grabbed it. He refused to give it back until they agreed to help him. The witches finally gave in; they got their eye back in exchange for the helmet, the sandals and the silver bag.

Perseus strapped on the sandals and flew to the Gorgons cave. He put on his helmet and now he was invisible to the Gorgons. Medusa did not notice Perseus flying into the cave. Perseus drew his crystal sword and lunged towards Medusa. He remembered that he must not look at her because he would turn to stone so he used his shield as a mirror and cut off her head. Medusa was finally dead and Perseus had the head in the silver bag to prove it.



Perseus returned to the evil King. The King did not believe that Medusa was dead. 'Show me the head!' he demanded. Perseus took the head from the silver bag and the evil King was instantly turned to stone! He had looked at the face of Medusa! Perseus, his mother and everyone in the land rejoiced.

Name: Date:

Read the story and then use the text to help you answer the following questions.



1. What did the evil King want with the mother of Perseus?

2. What was the King's plan to get rid of Perseus?

3. What was the name of the monster in the Story and what was she like?

4. Who lived at the Atlas mountains?

5. How did Perseus manage to get the items he needed from the witches?

6. Who helped Perseus in his quest to kill Medusa?

7. Why did Perseus not turn to stone but the King did?

8. How did Perseus carry the head of Medusa to the King?