



Perseus and Medusa

Long time ago in ancient Greece, a brave young man named Perseus lived on a small island, Seriphos, with his mother, Danae. The king of the island, Polydectes, was a cruel man. He wanted to marry Danae, but Perseus protected her. To get rid of Perseus, the king tricked him into a dangerous promise: *"Bring me the head of Medusa, or I will force your mother to marry me!"* Medusa was a terrible monster called a Gorgon. She had snakes for hair, and anyone who looked directly into her eyes turned to stone immediately.

Perseus felt afraid, but he wanted to save his mother. Luckily, the gods Athena and Hermes decided to help the brave young hero. Athena gave him a shiny bronze shield that acted like a mirror. Hermes gave him winged sandals to fly through the sky and a magical bag to carry Medusa's head safely.

Perseus flew across oceans and mountains until he reached the dark, hidden cave on the Island of Serpedon. Around the cave, he saw many statues of animals and soldiers—unfortunate people who had looked at Medusa and turned to stone.

Inside the dark cave, Medusa was sleeping. The snakes on her head were quietly hissing. Perseus knew that if he looked directly at her face, he would die instantly. Keeping his eyes strictly on his polished bronze shield, he saw her reflection. Walking backward very carefully, Perseus raised his sword, took a deep breath, and cut off Medusa's head with one powerful strike.

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Quickly, without looking at the head, Perseus put it into his magical bag. Suddenly, Medusa's two monster sisters woke up! They roared in anger and tried to attack him, but Perseus put on his winged sandals and flew into the sky as fast as he could, escaping into the clouds.

Perseus flew back to his home island just in time. He went to the king's palace, where Polydectes was laughing at him. "You failed!" the king shouted. Without saying a word, Perseus pulled Medusa's head out of the bag. The king looked directly into her eyes and instantly turned into solid stone. Perseus saved his mother, and peace returned to the island.

Part 1: Reading Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions based on the story "*The Hero and the Gorgon*". Use full sentences where possible.

1. Why did King Polydectes trick Perseus into bringing him Medusa's head?

Answer: _____

2. What powers did Medusa have, and what happened to people who looked at her?

Answer: _____

3. Which two magical items helped Perseus, and who gave them to him?

Answer: _____

4. How did Perseus defeat Medusa without looking directly at her face?

Answer: _____

5. How does the story end for King Polydectes?

Answer: _____

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Part 2: Narrative Plot Diagram Worksheet

Fill in the plot diagram below using the key events from the story.

Match or write the event summary for each stage:

- **1. Exposition (Introduction):**

Setting & Characters: _____

Main Conflict: _____

- **2. Rising Action:**

Preparation & Journey: _____

- **3. Climax (The Turning Point):**

Highest Action/Moment: _____

- **4. Falling Action:**

Immediate Aftermath: _____

- **5. Resolution (Conclusion):**

Final Solution & Ending: _____

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