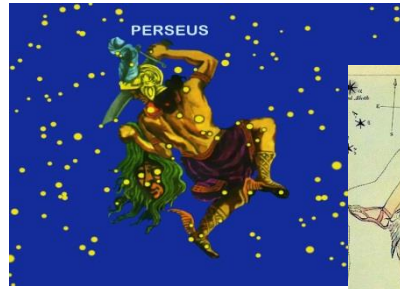


# Perseus and the Gorgon

## Chapter Two

### Perseus



The young man in question was currently in trouble and hiding from royal guards. His name was Perseus and the local king, Polydectes, wanted to marry Perseus's mother. Unfortunately, she didn't want to marry the king.

Perseus had heard the king's guards were on their way and hurried his mother from their home. As they cowered beside the back wall, they heard the tramp of the guards approaching and then a fist hammering on their front door.

"Come out!" shouted a voice. "We know you're in there."

Perseus saw his mother tremble and gave her a tight hug. "Don't worry," he reassured her. "If we're quick, we can hide in the forest. They'll have to go back to Polydectes without us."

Tugging her hand, he raced down the street. But the king seemed to have sent his entire army. There were guards everywhere.

"Over there!" one of them yelled. "After them!" Across the street, the village priest called to Perseus. "This way! I'll hide you!"

Perseus didn't hear.

He pulled his mother onto another street and ducked down an alley. It was a dead end.

They turned to run back and found guards now blocking the end of the alley.

The guards stomped menacingly closer.

Perseus stepped in front of his mother. "Don't come any nearer," he warned the guards.

But they kept coming. "It's just your mother we want." growled one.

Perseus hurled himself at them, hoping to barge them over, so his mother could escape. But the guards were too strong. A fist crashed against his head, and he fell to the ground.

“Tell the king I’ll do anything he wants if he leaves my mother alone,” Perseus cried. “I’ll even bring him the head of Medusa herself.”

The guards laughed in disbelief.

Medusa was a Gorgon, a monster so ugly that just one glance at her face turned men to stone.

“Ha! We’ll tell him,” said the guards as they dragged his mother away.

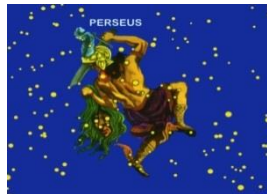
Perseus desperately tried to lift himself up, but all the breath had been knocked out of him. “I’ll fetch Medusa’s head,” he promised his mother,” and I’ll use it to turn King Polydectes to stone.”

Then pain overwhelmed him and his eyes fluttered shut.



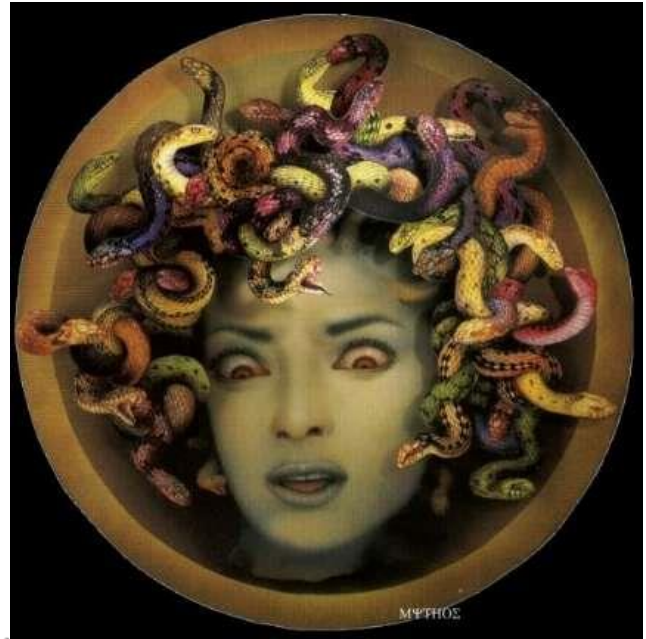
## Perseus and the Gorgon

### Chapter Two Worksheet



1. Who wished to marry Perseus’s mother?
2. Where did Perseus plan to hide with his mother?
3. Who tried to help Perseus?
4. What did Perseus offer to do for the king?

5. What is a Gorgon?
6. What happened to those who looked at Medusa?
7. Look at the picture of Medusa and write down as many adjectives as you can to describe her.
8. What do you think will happen next?
9. Why do you think this?



**Finished everything so far?**

Use your dictionary to find definitions for the following words and then write a sentence for each one:

desperate      barge      cower      reassure      overwhelmed

