

Read through the information below carefully. If there are any words you don't recognise, see if you can work them out by reading around them and by using the context to help.

UNIT  
5

## Perseus Meets Medusa

*After his long journey, Perseus finally arrived at the gorgons' lair.*

As Perseus came near to where the gorgons lived, he saw statues of men and animals that had been turned to stone. Then he saw a frightening sight! The three gorgons were lying asleep in the sun. He knew which one was Medusa as her head was covered in hissing snakes.

Quickly and quietly, Perseus put on the cap that made him invisible. He held up the gleaming shield and looked at Medusa's reflection in it. He drew the sharpest sword in the world and with one mighty blow, cut off her head. He picked it up and put it into the bag.

The snakes hissed loudly and woke up Medusa's sisters. They saw what had happened and jumped up. As they tried to grab Perseus, he jumped into the air and the shoes took him swiftly away. They followed him, screaming with rage, but the shoes were too quick for them. Perseus escaped and returned to his homeland.

When he got there, he found that all was not well. His mother had been made a slave by the wicked King. Perseus knew what he had to do. The King would think Perseus was dead. He would not be expecting the young man to turn up at the palace.

Perseus visited the King at the palace. All those who had laughed at him were there. One of them said, 'Well, well, here is Perseus. Have you brought the gorgon's head with you?' And they all laughed again.

Perseus walked up to the King who said, 'So you have come back. Have you brought me my present?'

'Indeed I have,' said Perseus. He pulled Medusa's head out of the bag and held it up for all to see. Perseus made sure he did not look at it but those who did turned to stone. The King was one of them, and on his stone face was a look of fear and disbelief!



Retold by Wendy Wren

### Understanding the text

- 1 How did Perseus know which gorgon was Medusa?
- 2 What did Perseus do first? Why?
- 3 Why did Medusa's sisters wake up?
- 4 What had happened to Perseus's mother while he was away?
- 5 What happened to the King at the end of the story?

### Looking at language

- 6 Explain the meaning of these words as they are used in the story. Use a dictionary to help you.

a mighty      b rage      c escaped      d disbelief

- 7 Find adverbs in the story that tell you:
  - a how Perseus put on the cap.
  - b how the snakes hissed.
  - c how the shoes took Perseus away.

### Exploring the story ending

- 8 How do you think Perseus felt when he saw the three gorgons?
- 9 What phrase in the story tells you that Medusa's sisters were angry?
- 10 Why would the King think Perseus was dead?
- 11 How do you think Perseus felt when everyone laughed at him this time?
- 12 Do you think Perseus should have turned the King to stone? Why? Why not?
- 13 What do think happened to Perseus and his mother after the King was dead?

### Taking it further

▶ RB, Unit 5, Extension

- 14 Make a list of the places Perseus went after he left the palace. Summarise what happened in each place.
- 15 Perseus's quest began and ended in the King's palace. Draw a map of his journey. Label it, showing where he went and who he met.