

Perseus and Medusa

Ancient Greek

Perseus was put to sea in a chest when he was a baby. He was saved and looked after by a fisherman. The fisherman's brother was Polydectes, the King.

Polydectes tricked Perseus into promising to kill a Gorgon. The Gorgons were terrible creatures, half woman and half beast, with hair made of snakes. People who looked at them turned to stone.

The goddess Athena helped Perseus. She gave him a helmet which made him invisible, a polished shield, a sword, a silver satchel and a pair of winged boots.

Perseus put on the helmet and searched for Medusa, the only Gorgon who could be killed. He found all three Gorgons asleep, with their snakes hissing and writhing. Looking at the reflection in his shield, Perseus cut off Medusa's head with his sword.

He put the head in his silver satchel and flew away using his winged boots. The other Gorgons chased him, but they didn't catch him.

When he arrived back at Polydectes' court, Perseus took out the head. The King and all his guests looked at it and turned to stone.

1. What did the fisherman find on the seashore and what did he do as a result?

| |
|--|
| |
| |
| |

2. What do you think most worried Perseus straight after he made his promise?

| |
|--|
| |
| |
| |

3. What was Perseus able to do with his shield, and why did it need to be polished?

| |
|--|
| |
| |
| |

4. What do you think Perseus was careful to do when he came back to Polydectes' court?

| |
|--|
| |
| |
| |