

Name: _____ Date: _____

Words to Know

Directions: As you come across words in bold in *The Snake-Haired Monster*, ask yourself if you know them or if you can figure them out from context. Check their meanings here. Then complete the activity on the following page.

- immortal:** “Then killing her means I will become **immortal**, for my name will be remembered forever.” (p. 22)
Meaning: living forever, or lasting forever in people’s memories
- lair:** “Perseus climbs into the Gray Sisters’ **lair** and hides behind a rock, watching them.” (p. 22)
Meaning: a secret or hidden place used as a hideout
- lavish:** “Guests have brought **lavish** presents.” (p. 21)
Meaning: expensive, generous, or luxurious
- nymphs:** “Only the **Nymphs** of the North know where Medusa is.” (p. 22)
Meaning: nature goddesses in mythology who live in rivers, mountains, meadows, or woods
- quest:** “Send him on a **quest** he cannot possibly resist—or survive.” (p. 21)
Meaning: a long, difficult search for something, often involving a journey
- sickle:** “And take this magic **sickle**.” (p. 22)
Meaning: a tool with a short handle and curved blade, used for cutting grass and grain

Continued on next page >

Name: _____ Date: _____

Words to Know, p. 2

Directions: Rewrite each sentence below using one of the words in the box.

immortal

nymphs

lair

quest

lavish

sickle

1. The farmer slashed through the tall stalks of wheat with a hooked blade.

2. Our class read an ancient Greek myth about beautiful forest spirits who danced among the trees.

3. Arriving at the queen's party, guests stared in amazement at the fancy food and decorations.

4. Luis had heard there was treasure hidden in the mountains, so he set off on a trip to look for it.

5. Classic books such as *Charlotte's Web* are remembered forever.

6. When they reached the island, the pirates carried the gold to their secret hiding place.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think About It!

Close-Reading Questions: After reading *The Snake-Haired Monster*, go back and reread sections to answer the questions below.

1. What can you tell about the king from Scene 1?

2. Reread Scene 2. Why do the king and his advisers want to send Perseus on a dangerous quest?

3. Why do you think Perseus accepts the challenge to get Medusa's head?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think About It! p. 2

4. What main problem does Perseus face in Scene 3? What happens that moves him closer to solving it?

5. In Scenes 3 and 4, what objects are given to Perseus to help him? Why is each one important?

6. In Scene 4, what character traits does Perseus show in getting Medusa's head?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think About It! p. 3

7. At the end of the play, what does Danae mean when she says, "you have killed a monster with a monster"?

Critical-Thinking Questions: After answering the close-reading questions, answer the critical-thinking questions below, thinking about the meaning of the whole play.

8. Who did Perseus help by going on the quest for Medusa's head?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think About It! p. 4

9. On his quest for Medusa's head, Perseus relied on both assistance from others and his own traits. What do you think most helped him succeed?

10. What do you think it means to be a hero? In your opinion, was Perseus a hero?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think About It!

Directions: After reading *The Snake-Haired Monster*, go back and reread sections to answer the questions below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Close-Reading Questions:

1. What can you tell about the king from Scene 1?
2. Reread Scene 2. Why do the king and his advisers want to send Perseus on a dangerous quest?
3. Why do you think Perseus accepts the challenge to get Medusa's head?
4. What main problem does Perseus face in Scene 3? What happens that moves him closer to solving it?
5. In Scenes 3 and 4, what objects are given to Perseus to help him? Why is each one important?
6. In Scene 4, what character traits does Perseus show in getting Medusa's head?
7. At the end of the play, what does Danae mean when she says, "you have killed a monster with a monster"?

Critical-Thinking Questions:

8. Who did Perseus help by going on the quest for Medusa's head?
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Name: _____ Date: _____

Think About It!

Close-Reading Questions: Read *The Snake-Haired Monster*. Then go back and reread scenes from the play to answer the questions below. We've started the first one for you.

1. Based on Scene 1, what kind of person does the king seem to be?

The king seems like he is

2. In Scene 2, why does the king ask Perseus to bring him Medusa's head?
(Hint: What does he think will happen to Perseus?)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think About It! p. 2

3. In Scene 3, how do Athena and Hermes help Perseus? How do the Gray Sisters help him?

4. How does Perseus manage to kill Medusa and escape with her head in Scene 4?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think About It! p. 3

5. At the end of Scene 5, why do you think Danae tells Perseus that his name will “be remembered forever”?

Critical-Thinking Question (big question about the whole story):

6. Do you think Perseus is a hero in this story? Explain your answer using examples from the play. *(Continue on the back if you need more space.)*

Name: _____ Date: _____

Perseus the Hero

Directions: Answer the questions in the graphic organizer below using specific details from *The Snake-Haired Monster* to help you analyze the character of Perseus. Then complete the writing prompt at the bottom of the page.

<p>1. In Scene 1, Perseus is described as Danae's "brave son." What does Perseus do in that scene that shows he is brave?</p>	<p>2. Perseus travels for months over land and sea, trying to find Medusa. What does this show about his character?</p>
<p>3. Perseus knows that if he looks at Medusa, he will turn to stone. How does he cut off Medusa's head without looking at her? What does this show about his character?</p>	<p>4. When Perseus returns from his journey, how does he free his mother from the king? How would you describe Perseus at this moment?</p>

Perseus

Write Now! Use the information above to help you answer these questions: In what ways is Perseus a hero in this play? What character traits help him complete his heroic task? Answer both in a well-organized response using details from the play.

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Heroic Setting

Directions: Setting is the time period and place in which a play or story happens. By describing the setting of a play, the author can help you imagine living in that world. Answer the questions below to help you understand the setting of *The Snake-Haired Monster*.

1. In what part of the world does Storyteller 1 say the play takes place? When does it take place?

2. The Gray Sisters live in a *lair*. How does describing their home as a *lair* help paint a picture of their characters?

3. Where does Medusa live? In what ways does this setting make Perseus's task difficult?

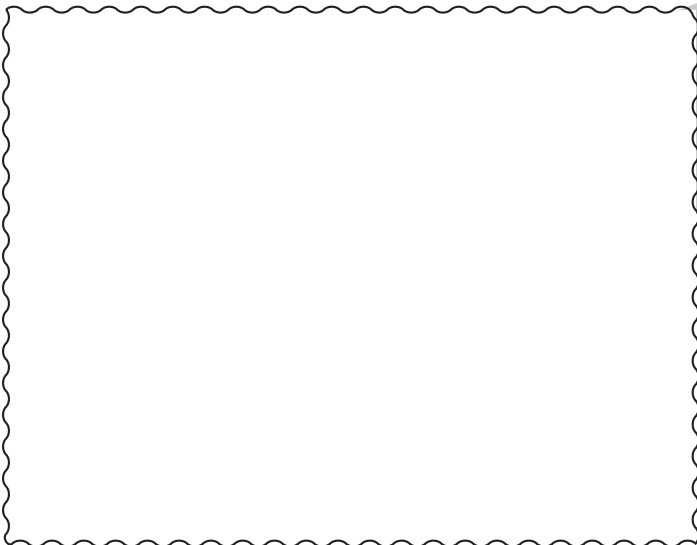
Storyworks S-T-R-E-T-C-H: Where do the beginning and ending scenes of the play take place? How does starting and ending the play in the same setting contribute to the story?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Journey of Perseus

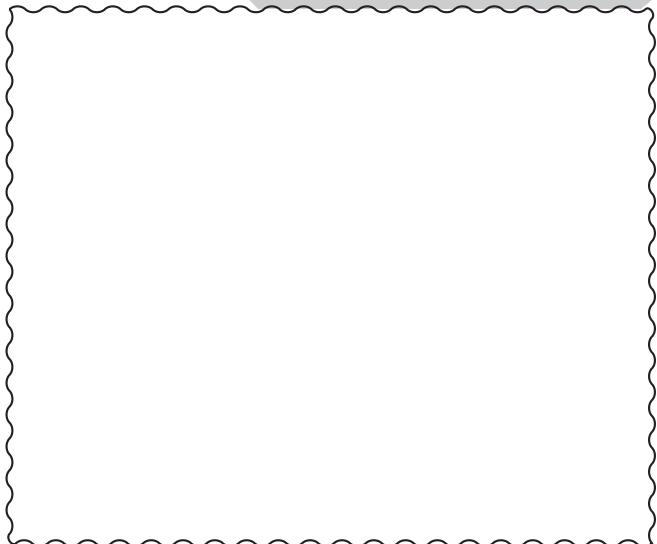
Directions: The action of a story is called the *plot*. In *The Snake-Haired Monster*, the plot follows Perseus as he makes a challenging journey. Answer the questions under each box below to help you identify the parts of the plot. Then, in the box, draw a picture of the action.

1 The Setup



Where is Perseus in the beginning of the play?
What's happening with his mom?

2 The Big Challenge



What happens that starts Perseus on his journey?

Continued on next page >

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Journey of Perseus, p. 2

3 Along the Way



What problems does Perseus face along the way? How does he get past them? Explain and illustrate three.

a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

5 The Wrap-up



What does Perseus do when he gets back to Seriphos that solves a big problem?

4 The Climax!



What is the most exciting—and challenging—part of the journey?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Understanding the King

Directions: In *The Snake-Haired Monster*, the King's words don't always mean exactly what they say. Sometimes he says things to make fun of Perseus, or even to trick him. Can *you* understand the king?

Read the king's lines from the play below. Think about what each one means and why the king is saying it. Then answer the questions that follow.

1. King (*smirking*): "Ah, Perseus. Always a pleasure to see you." (p. 21)

Do you think the king is really glad to see Perseus? _____

If not, what do you think the king means? _____

The word *smirking*, in parentheses, is a stage direction. It describes the king's expression. How does the word *smirking* help you understand what the king is really saying? _____

2. King: "Are you so lazy that you have nothing to offer your king?" (p. 21)

Do you think the king really believes Perseus is lazy? _____

If not, why do you think the king calls him lazy? _____

3. King (*laughing*): "You have Medusa's head in that bag?" (p. 24)

Do you think the king really believes that Perseus has Medusa's head? _____

If not, what do you think the king really means when he asks the question? _____

How does the stage direction *laughing* help you understand what the king is really saying? _____

The Snake-Haired Monster Quiz

Directions: Read the play *The Snake-Haired Monster* in the October/November 2018 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. What type of ruler is the King of Seriphos?

- (A) wise
- (B) kind
- (C) unkind
- (D) brave

2. In Scene 2, why does the King of Seriphos want to get rid of Perseus?

- (A) The king wants to marry Perseus’s mother.
- (B) The king is angry because Perseus forgot to bring a gift to his wedding.
- (C) Perseus plans to take over as king.
- (D) The king wants Perseus to go off and become a hero.

3. In Scene 3, what does Athena give to Perseus to help him?

- (A) winged sandals
- (B) a metal shield
- (C) a magic sickle
- (D) a Helmet of Darkness

4. Who tells Perseus where to find Medusa?

- (A) Danae
- (B) Hermes
- (C) the Gray Sisters
- (D) the Nymphs of the North

5. Where does Perseus finally find Medusa?

- (A) in a palace on the island of Seriphos
- (B) in the gorgons’ cave at the end of the world
- (C) dancing at the edge of the water
- (D) on a cliff by the edge of the sea

6. In Scene 5, when Danae says “My son, you have killed a monster with a monster,” she means that Perseus killed . . .

- (A) Medusa, using the metal shield.
- (B) Medusa, using the magic sickle.
- (C) the king, using the Gray Sisters’ eye.
- (D) the king, using Medusa’s head.

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with details from the play.

7. How does Perseus manage to kill Medusa without looking at her and turning to stone?

8. Choose two words to describe Perseus. Explain why you chose these words, using details from the play.

The Snake-Haired Monster Quiz

Directions: Read the play *The Snake-Haired Monster* in the October/November 2018 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. What type of ruler is the King of Seriphos?

- (A) wise
- (B) kind
- (C) brave
- (D) uncaring

2. Which line from the play supports your answer to question 1?

- (A) "He starts to draw his sword."
- (B) "Your people are suffering and you do nothing to help them."
- (C) "I like this idea!"
- (D) "Always a pleasure to see you."

3. Why do the Nymphs of the North help Perseus?

- (A) They want their eye back.
- (B) They believe Medusa is evil.
- (C) Perseus tricks them into helping him.
- (D) They would like the King of Seriphos to have a special wedding gift.

4. In Scene 4, when Perseus "catches his reflection in Athena's shield," he realizes that he can . . .

- (A) use the shield as a mirror and avoid looking directly at Medusa.
- (B) turn Medusa to stone when she looks into it.
- (C) turn the stone statues back into living beings with it.
- (D) protect himself from Medusa's sisters with it.

5. Athena is the goddess of wisdom and of _____.

- (A) messages
- (B) the seas
- (C) the weather
- (D) war

6. In Scene 5, how do you know that the King of Seriphos doesn't believe Medusa's head is in the sack?

- (A) Storyteller 3 tells you.
- (B) The king calls Perseus a liar.
- (C) The stage directions (in parentheses) let you know.
- (D) The king's advisers explain that the king thinks Perseus is not telling the truth.

7. Based on the phrase "his face forever frozen in an expression of awe and horror," you can guess that the king looked _____ and horrified.

- (A) doubtful
- (B) unhappy
- (C) foolish
- (D) shocked

8. When Danae says "My son, you have killed a monster with a monster," she means that Perseus killed . . .

- (A) Medusa, using the metal shield.
- (B) Medusa, using the magic sickle.
- (C) the king, using the Gray Sisters' eye.
- (D) the king, using Medusa's head.

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with details from the play.

9. Explain in your own words how the King of Seriphos tricks Perseus into going on a quest to get Medusa's head.

10. Choose three words to describe Perseus. Explain why you chose these words, using details from the play.

Perseus Contest

My name: _____

Teacher's name: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

(Remember to include city, state, and ZIP code!)

School phone: _____

Parent's name and email (*optional*): _____

See page 24 of the October/November 2018 issue of *Storyworks* for more information about this contest.

My Response

**What challenges did Perseus face on his quest for Medusa's head?
How did he overcome them? Write an essay answering both questions.**

Entries will be judged on:

⇒ a clearly stated main idea

⇒ good organization and transitions

⇒ effective use of supporting evidence

⇒ grammar, spelling, and punctuation

Continue on another piece of paper if you need more room.