

Perseus and Medusa



Once, on a beautiful Greek island, there lived a lovely woman named Danae and her son Perseus. A wicked king wanted to marry Danae but she was not very interest in him because he was cruel. Perseus would be able to stop the wedding because he was strong and brave, but the king had a plan to get rid of Perseus. He set Perseus an impossible quest: to bring back the head of the dreadful monster Medusa. The king planned to marry Danae while Perseus was on the quest and hopefully Medusa would kill Perseus.

Medusa was a Gorgon and of all the beasts, monsters and creepy-crawlies of Ancient Greece, she was the most fearsome. Instead of teeth, she had sharp tusks; her hands were bronze claws and she had golden wings on her back. However, the most horrific thing about her was her hair. Her hair was made of living snakes! If you ever looked at Medusa, you would be instantly turned to stone!



Perseus had no idea how he stood any chance of killing Medusa and had given up hope. At that moment, Athena, the goddess of wisdom appeared.

"Perseus," she said. "I have come to help. Take this brightly polished shield and deadly sword. You cannot look into Medusa's eyes but use the shield as a mirror to see her reflection."

Eventually, Perseus arrived at Medusa's island. The valley, close to Medusa's cave, was filled with stone people, frozen in horror with a scream still on their lips. The cave yawned darkly at him and hissing came from within.

"Have you come to see me Perseus," cried Medusa. "Take one small peek at me. I know you want to!"



For a dreadful moment, Perseus was tempted to look, but he gazed into the reflection in the shield. He could see her yellow teeth snarling at him and her scaly, green skin. The reflection was huge as he stepped nearer and the snakes hissed furiously. Perseus swung his sword wildly. Medusa screamed as her snakes exploded around her head. Her head

rolled across the ground.

Being careful to still not look at the head, Perseus placed it in a bag and returned to his own island to save his mother.

Perseus arrived at the king's palace and everyone was shocked to see him still alive.

"I do not believe you have killed the Gorgon Medusa," cried the king.

"Would you believe you own eyes?" asked Perseus as he drew the head from the bag. The king gazed in disbelief but could say no more because there was nothing but a stone statue leaning out of his thrown.



Perseus had saved his mother and he gave Medusa's head to the goddess Athena because she had helped him. Athena placed the head in the centre of her shield to terrify her enemies.