‘Eye’ can’t believe it!

Dastardly Demi-god Outwits Trio of Witches

Demi-god Perseus, son of Zeus, outwitted a trio of witches into giving him directions after he lost his way on a quest to slay the gorgon Medusa.

Hero on a quest

Last week, Greek hero Perseus, began his quest to seek out and slay the gorgon Medusa. With no map, compass or friend to guide him, it was not long before the hapless hero was lost, alone and looking at failure. Perseus, 24, from Greece, had vowed to force King Polydectes to gaze into the serpent-haired, demon-woman’s eyes and turn him to stone *before* marrying Danae, Perseus’ mother. Having uttered the fateful oath, revenge-seeking Perseus had no choice but to set forth on his quest.

Family benefits

With Zeus as his father, Perseus was never going to be stranded for long. Reports from the mountain regions of Sarpedon suggest that Perseus was visited by the goddess Athene (his half-sister), who gave him a sword and shield. A shepherd from the area, reported that he was guiding his sheep along the mountain when his path was blocked by a beautiful woman. “I was in awe of her, I couldn’t move - I stood as still as a statue.” stated Agapios Delis, 53. “She was giving a young man a sword and a shield. Not the usual thing a shepherd sees up in the mountains - usually it’s just pesky goats and the odd mountain lion.” Other witnesses report seeing a man (believed to be the god Hermes) wearing winged sandals giving flying-shoes to the lost adventurer.

Eyeful

Taking his weapons and winged shoes, Perseus made his way to the region where, according to rumours, Medusa was living. His quest was in serious danger of premature ending when the directionally challenged hero found himself lost once more. This time, help was at hand when he came face-to-face with one-eyed witches. Literally, the three witches had one eye between them. Knowing the witches to be selfish, lying old hags, Perseus set about flattering them with his charms, then tricking the foul fiends with his wit. Thus the exact location of Medusa’ lair was established. “I can’t believe ‘e tricked me - ‘e said he’d throw me eye to them seagulls,” moaned one of the witches. Another announced, “I feel so stupid. He called me a fair lady and my heart was all-a-flutter!” The third witch could only comment on the hero’s handsome looks, “Demi-god? Demi-licious more like!”

More trouble ahead

Travelling ever nearer to the stony-eyed woman, Perseus must surely be questioning his ability to succeed on his quest. No one has ever escaped the cold death of Medusa’s stare. He is yet to face his hardest challenge. But Perseus is no ordinary hero and it is highly probable that this newspaper will be reporting on his victory in due course.

Questions: focus 2a Give / Explain the meaning of words in context

1. In paragraph 1, what does the phrase *hapless hero* tell us about Perseus?

2. Why has the word ***before*** been typed in italics?

3. “I was in awe of her, I couldn’t move - I stood as still as a statue.” stated Agapios Delis, 53. Explain the significance of this simile.

4. Find and copy one phrase in paragraph one meaning ***deadly promise****.*

5. What was Agapios Delis’ reaction when he came across Athene and Perseus? Circle 2 \* He was astonished \* He fell in love \* He was afraid \* He grabbed his sword

6. Look at the paragraph beginning: Taking his weapons and winged shoes ... why does the author use the phrase ***directionally challenged hero***?

7. Find and copy one word in paragraph four that means ***earlier than expected***.

8. ***Perseus set about flattering them with his charms, then tricking the foul fiends with his wit.***How did he do this?

9. Find and copy one phrase that shows the author believes that Perseus will be successful in his quest.

Questions: focus 2a Give / Explain the meaning of words in context

1. In paragraph 1, what does the phrase *hapless hero* tell us about Perseus? He is unfortunate / unlucky because things keep going wrong for him, but he is also a hero because he is going on a quest to save his mother / kill Medusa and then kill Polydectes.

2. Why has the word ***before*** been typed in italics? To emphasise the point that he wants to stop Polydectes from marrying his mother Danae. Do not accept ***For emphasis*** without an explanation of what is being emphasised.

3. “I was in awe of her, I couldn’t move - I stood as still as a statue.” stated Agapios Delis, 53. Explain the significance of this simile. Medusa turns people to statues with one look and Perseus is on his way to kill her. Agapios can’t possibly know this.

4. Find and copy one phrase in paragraph one meaning ***deadly promise****.* Fateful oath

5. What was Agapios Delis’ reaction when he came across Athene and Perseus? Circle 2 (awe) \* He was astonished \* He fell in love \* He was afraid \* He grabbed his sword

6. Look at the paragraph beginning: Taking his weapons and winged shoes ... why does the author use the phrase ***directionally challenged hero***? Perseus keeps getting lost.

7. Find and copy one word in paragraph four that means ***earlier than expected***. Premature

8. ***Perseus set about flattering them with his charms, then tricking the foul fiends with his wit.***How did he do this?Accept 2 of the following

* Said he’d throw the eye to the seagulls
* Called her a fair lady
* Used his good looks to get what he wanted

9. Find and copy one phrase that shows the author believes that Perseus will be successful in his quest. Highly probable