

What to do today

IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.

If you have any children's books of Greek Myths it would be great to read some more stories alongside this work. You can also access Greek Myths online:

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/greece/greek-myths/>;

<https://www.greekmyths4kids.com/> among others but please be aware them some myths are quite grown-up in content.

1. Before you start your work today watch Hamilton Trust's Perseus [Story Telling Video](#)

2. Perseus and Medusa

- Watch the short clip: [Perseus and the Gorgon's Head](#) or read the transcript.
- Look at the example opening sentences, whose point of view is each one told from? Look up any words you don't know in a dictionary.

3. Now for some writing

- Write your own version of the myth in the first person (using 'I, me, my, mine') from Perseus' point of view - or if you want a challenge try doing it from the point of view of one of the snakes in Medusa's hair.

Try the Fun-Time Extras

- Draw your own picture of Medusa, the snake-haired monster.
- If you are able to, research and read other Greek myths.
- The ancient Greeks decorated their vases with scenes from mythology. Draw or paint a scene from the Perseus myth for your own vase. You could even make your own papier mâché vase to paint it onto <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Papier-M%C3%A2ch%C3%A9-Vase> .

Transcript of video clip: Perseus and 'The Gorgon's Head'

Athene had not only told Perseus how to kill the gorgon, she had given him the means. He now carried her brightly polished shield in one hand and his sword in the other. He knew that he must be getting close to Medusa's cave. The valley in which he stood was filled with stone people. Some trapped as they'd turned to run, others frozen in horror, their mouths open, the scream still on their lips. It was as if they had been photographed in that last second of their life. Their reaction in that second had been caught for eternity.

One young soldier had covered his face but then he had tried to peek through his fingers. A local government official stood rigid, his stone fingers stood clutching a scrap of yellowing paper. There were stone women and stone children.

Now, Perseus saw the mouth of a large cave yawning darkly at him. Holding the shield more tightly than ever he climbed down the gentle slope and, taking a deep breath, entered the gloom. "Medusa!" His voice sounded lost in the shadows. Something moved at the back of the cave. "Medusa!" Now he could hear breathing and the sounds of hissing. "I am Perseus."

"Perseus," came a deep throaty voice from the back of the cave. It was followed by a horrible giggling. "Have you come to see me?"

The gorgon stepped forward into the light. For a dreadful moment, Perseus was tempted to look up at her, to meet her eyes. But with all his strength he kept his head turned away as Athene had instructed him. And instead of looking at Medusa he looked at her reflection in the shield.



Now he could see her green skin, her poisonous red eyes and her yellow teeth, all reflected in the polished bronze. He lifted his sword.

"Look at me. Look at me!" the gorgon cried. Still he kept his eyes on the shield. He took another step into the cave. Now the reflection was huge, the teeth snarling at him out of the shield.

"Look at me. Look at me!"

How could he find her when all he could see was the reflection? Surely it would be easier to kill her if he just took one quick look, just to make sure he didn't miss.

"Yes, that's right. Look at me."

With a despairing cry, Perseus swung wildly with his sword. He felt the sharp steel bite into flesh and bone. A fountain of blood spouted out of her neck as her body crumpled. Then at last it was over. Still not looking at it, Perseus picked up the grim trophy of his victory and dropped it into a heavy sack.

Example Opening Sentences

These opening sentences are from stories told from Perseus's point of view and from the point of view of one of the snakes in Medusa's hair. Can you work out which one is which?

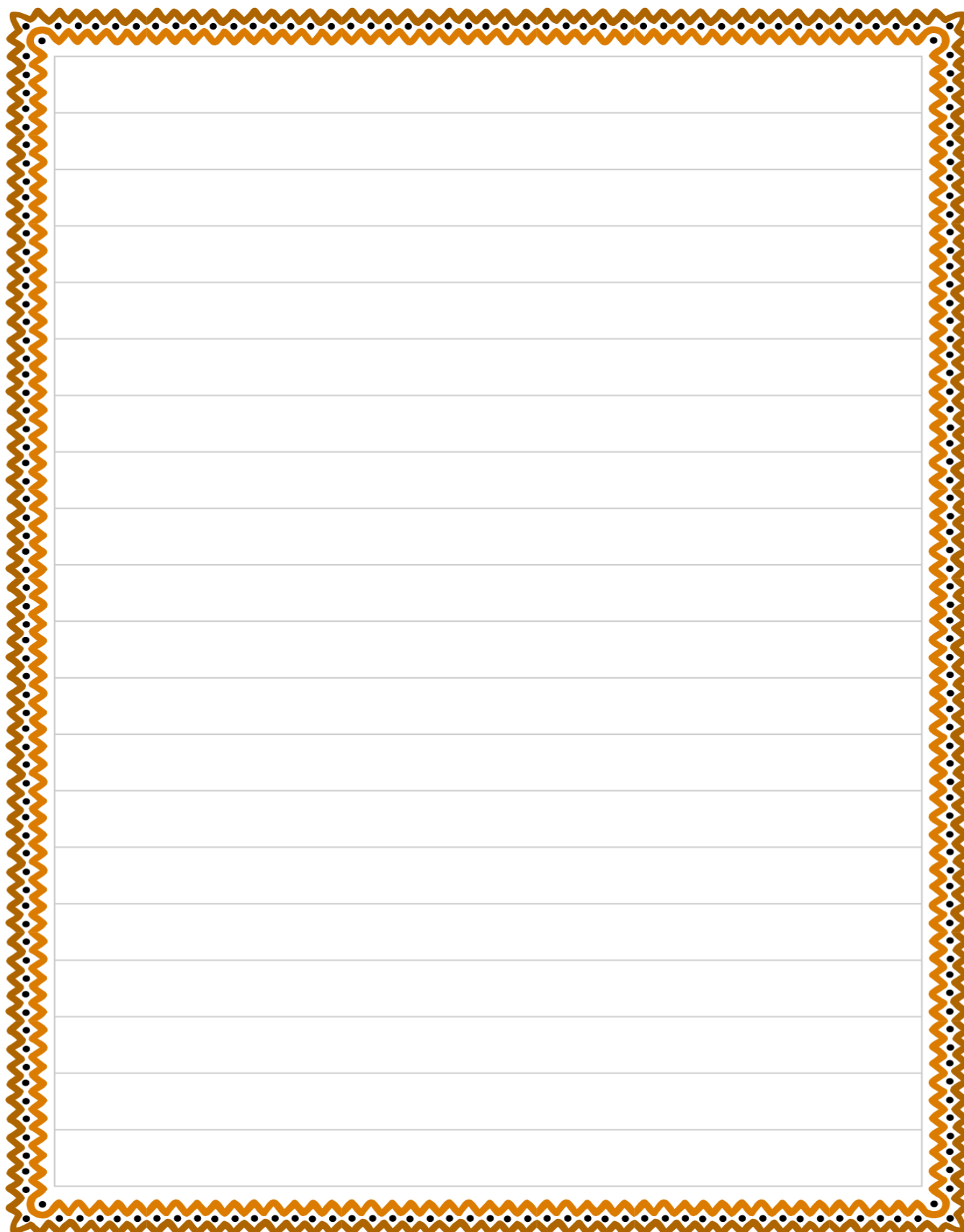
If there are any words you don't know the meaning of, look them up in a dictionary and write down what they mean. <https://kids.wordsmyth.net/we/>

As I lay resting, I could hear carefully laid footsteps, quietly shifting closer to the cave entrance. Medusa stirred and a wide grin stretched across her face. I felt excited by the anticipation of petrifying another gullible, foolish human.

Up ahead, I could see the gnarled entrance to her cavernous cave. As I approached, I trod softly and gently so as not to draw attention to myself. My heart was pounding like a muffled drum.

Perseus and the Gorgon

Write your own version of the myth in the first person (I, me, my, mine), imagining you are Perseus (or if you want a challenge – one of the snakes on Medusa's head). Remember what you have learnt this week about powerful verbs, writing dialogue and using conjunctions.



A large rectangular writing area with a decorative orange and black zigzag border. The interior is white with horizontal lines for writing.