

Practice text: The Winged Horse

Cracking the questions

Question	Answer	CD/Mark	Useful strategies
1. "Stone prey: their joy and their delight since time began" (paragraph 3). What is "stone prey"?	• Prey that has been turned to stone. • Creatures that the Gorgons ate that they have turned to stone. • Seagull/bird.	2a 1 mark	Question focus: give meaning of words in context. Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Scan the text for the sentence and consider the context.
2. Draw lines to show which item Perseus borrowed from each god. (See right.)	Hermes – winged sandals Hades – helmet of invisibility Athena – mirror shield	2b 1 mark	Question focus: identify key details. Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Consider where in the text to look for the information. • Scan the text for the names of the gods. • Carefully read the text to confirm the answers. Award 1 mark for all correct links.
3. (a) Find and write the word that tells you how fast Perseus flew to meet the Gorgons. (b) What does the word mean?	(a) "wind-fast" (paragraph 6) (b) As fast as the wind/quickly/fast.	2a 2 marks	Question focus: explain and explore meaning of words in context. Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Consider where in the text to look for the information. • Carefully read that part of the text to find the word. • Consider what the word might mean. Award 1 mark for each correct part.
4. Write three words from paragraphs 3, 6 and 7 that the author uses to make the reader think of the Gorgons as animals.	• "snarling" (line 6) • "clawing" (line 30) • "prey" (line 7) • "lair" (line 15) • "snuffling" (line 16) • "snorting" (line 16)	2g 2 marks	Question focus: identify how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases. Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Scan the text for the information required. • Carefully copy the words. Award 2 marks for three appropriate words. Award 1 mark for two words.
5. Describe how Perseus used each of the gods' belongings to kill Medusa. a. Winged sandals b. Helmet of invisibility c. Mirror shield	a. Winged sandals: to travel to the Gorgon's lair. b. Helmet of invisibility: to stay invisible/so that the Gorgons wouldn't see him. c. Mirror shield "to guide his movements behind his back"	2c 3 marks	Question focus: summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph. Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Skim the text for overall meaning and context. • Carefully reread how Perseus killed the Gorgons. • Remember to use words from the text in your answers. Award 1 mark for each answer that includes some explanation and a quotation.

Question	Answer	CD/Mark	Useful strategies
6. Do you think Perseus was wise to trust Pegasus? Yes/No Explain your answer fully, referring to the text.	Yes - Pegasus had wings and "spoke human words" (line 27). He told Perseus how he could save himself from the other Gorgons: "Quick, Perseus! Jump on my back. Hurry!" (line 27). No - The horse came "Out of the blood from Medusa's neck" (lines 23–24). He had just killed Medusa and her eyes could still turn him into stone.	2d 2 marks	Question focus: explain and justify inferences. Strategies: - Carefully read the question, marking key words. - Skim the text while considering the question. - Scan the text to find relevant quotations.
7. "Her stony glance pierced the seagull like an arrow" (paragraph 2). Give two reasons why the author chose to use the word 'stony'.	"stony glance" usually refers to a cruel/unfriendly/unfeeling look and the Gorgon is being cruel to the seagull by killing it. "stony glance" also refers to the Gorgon's ability to turn things into stone by looking at them.	2g 2 marks	Question focus: explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases. Strategies: - Carefully read the question, marking key words. - Scan the text to find the quotation. - Skim the paragraph for the overall context. - Consider the implications of the word "stony" at this point. Award 1 mark for each appropriate answer given.
8. Perseus is the hero of this legend. (a) What was his heroic task? (b) What did the gods do to help him?	(a) He cut off the Gorgon's head. (b) They gave him equipment to keep him safe/Hermes gave him his winged sandals, Hades lent him his cloak of invisibility and Athene lent him her mirror-shield.	2b/2f 2 marks	Question focus: find information/identify how narrative content is related. Strategies: - Carefully read the question, marking key words. - Skim the text for the overall context. - Note down ideas from the text to use in your answer. Award 1 mark for each part of the question.
9. Suggest an alternative title for this legend and explain why you chose it.	Other titles could include: - Perseus and Medusa, because the main part of the story is about how Perseus defeated Medusa. - The Stony Glance, because Medusa's look turned things to stone so Perseus had to be cunning to kill her. - Death of the Gorgon, because the story is about how a Gorgon was killed.	2c 2 marks	Question focus: summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph. Strategies: - Carefully read the question, marking key words. - Skim the text whilst considering the question. Award 1 mark for an appropriate title and the second mark for an explanation.