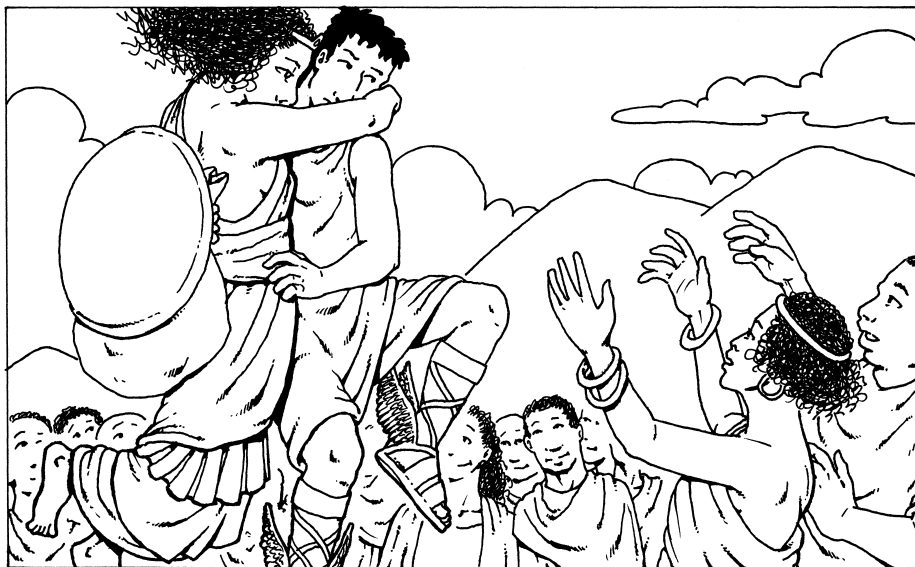


Chapter Ten

Poseidon's Revenge



What can you tell by reading the story?

1. Why did Andromeda not want Perseus to rescue her?
2. Why did Perseus tell her she didn't have to die?

What can you tell by thinking about the story?

1. "You are not the first daughter of a king to be put in danger by an oracle," Perseus tells Andromeda. What is he talking about?
2. What does Cassiopeia say that makes Perseus so angry?

Vocabulary

Andromeda (*ann-DRAW-mih-da*) The daughter of Cassiopeia and Cepheus, princess of Ethiopia, chained to a rock to appease the monster sent by Poseidon.

Cassiopeia (*cass-ee-OH-pea-uh* or *CASS-ee-oh-PEA-uh*) The vain mother of Andromeda.

Cepheus (*SEE-fee-us* or *KEE-fee-us*) Andromeda's father (The name in Greek properly requires a K sound, but the soft-C pronunciation is used in referring to the constellation and is reasonable if not technically correct to use in the classroom when referring to the character, unless you're planning to teach them Greek as well.)

Poseidon (*poe-SIGH-don*) God of the Sea, one of the most powerful of the Greek gods, nearly an equal to Zeus.

Response Key

What can you tell by reading the story?

1. She was willing to die to help make her country safe.
2. The oracle just said to chain her out there. When they did that, Perseus saw her and came to kill the sea monster. That made the country safe, and she didn't have to die.

What can you tell by thinking about the story?

1. His mother, Dana, was imprisoned, then cast into the sea because of an oracle's prediction. Perseus may have a particularly strong desire to help this young princess avoid dying because of something an oracle said!
2. She wants to know about his father, and Perseus has no father, or at least, not one he can explain to Cassiopeia. Remember how this quest began: Perseus was being teased as the "fisherboy" who smelled and didn't have nice clothing. Now he is a hero, and yet Cassiopeia wants to know about his parents and where he comes from and if he's good enough for her daughter.

Teachable moment: This is one place in which we did "go modern" in the telling of this story. In the original, Perseus tells her parents he will rescue Andromeda and destroy the monster if he can have her hand in marriage. That's a common enough event in literature up to fairly recent times, but we felt we should go another direction. In our version, Perseus admires her courage and is angry that her parents would put her out to die, and asks her to come be his wife. In real life, courtship takes longer, but, in real life, our options are not as clearcut as whether we are going to be devoured by sea monsters.

More to the point, in real life people don't always make the decision to get away from people who endanger them and make unreasonable demands on them. They don't always have the clarity of vision to reject people whose values are based on vanity and pride, or the courage to insist that they be allowed to make their own way in the world. Whether you see Andromeda as a victim of parental abuse or simply a young woman not willing to step into the same unsatisfying role that produced her vain mother, there is still a teachable moment here.

(Those with an interest in the classics will know that Medea, the royal daughter who fled with Jason in the legend of the Golden Fleece, turned out to be a very bad person, while Ariadne, who helped Theseus defeat the Minotaur and became his wife, was later abandoned by him. Running off with a hero doesn't always produce happy marriages. In this case, however, it turns out well, which is another reason we chose this story and not those others.)