

# Chapter Eleven

## Return to Seriphos



What can you tell by reading the story?

1. How did Perseus know something was wrong when he got home?
2. Where did he find Dictys and Thalia? Why were they there?
3. What does Dana say to Andromeda when they meet?

What can you tell by thinking about the story?

1. Why did Perseus want to walk to the Temple of Athena instead of using the flying sandals?
2. It's obvious to the palace guards that Perseus has changed, and they step aside instead of challenging him. Why do you suppose that Polydectes and his friends still laugh at the "fisherboy?"

Let's Talk About It: The palace guards saw a change in Perseus that made them treat him differently than the last time he came to see Polydectes. How do you think Perseus has changed? Can you find things in the way he speaks to Andromeda and to his mother that make him seem different than he was the last time he was in Seriphos?

## Response Key

### What can you tell by reading the story?

1. The boat and nets were on the beach when Dictys should have been out fishing, and the goats were eating the vegetables in Thalia's garden. The garden hadn't been tended. Dictys and Thalia's clothes and Thalia's basket are gone from the house.
2. They had gone to the Temple of Athena because it's a place they could be safe from Polydectes. Dana doesn't say exactly what they fear by leaving the temple, but it's plain that the danger is very real. Now, instead of Dictys finding safety for her, she is providing a safe place for him, and for Thalia, thanks to the High Priestess and, of course, the goddess herself, who promised Perseus to take care of his mother while he was gone.
3. She welcomes her by reminding her that Dana, too, was a stranger who had left her home and family when she first came to Seriphos. She doesn't yet know that Andromeda is also a princess, as she is, but she welcomes her because she is with Perseus, and that's good enough for her! (How is that different than the greeting Perseus got from Cassiopeia?)

### What can you tell by thinking about the story?

1. On a practical level, he doesn't want crowds of people to see them flying. He recognizes that it would be better not to give Polydectes a great deal of warning that he is back, or that he has gained power since he left. On a more personal level, however, he tells Andromeda "I'm home now." His life since he left Seriphos has been very exciting, but now he is back and, while he has some loose ends to tie up, he really wants to be home, to take some comfort in his old role. *(If you have a place that makes you feel comfortable, like a grandparent's house that you don't visit often, you may know what it's like to have special food you enjoy or a special place you like to sit when you visit, just because it makes you feel like you're really back there!)*
2. Polydectes and his friends have already decided who Perseus is and they're not really interested in paying attention to him enough to even see that he has changed. This is not an uncommon device in these action stories, of course, but it's also true in real life. Sometimes, a new kid in school will get pigeonholed, and, after that, the other kids don't pay attention to notice changes or talents and interests they hadn't noticed before. It can be hard to deal with that kind of prejudice. Of course, in this case, it makes it easier for Perseus to finish what the Olympians intended to have happen.

Teachable moment: One of the things we look for in fiction is a change in the main character over the course of the story. Even a short story should show this change, even if it's only a change in how we see the character. But, in a full-length story, characters should develop and change because of the things that happen to them. Talk about some of the changes students have seen in Perseus over the course of this story (How did he behave the last time Polydectes and his friends teased him? How did he behave this time?)

Now ask them to share the changes that characters have gone through in other books they have enjoyed. This should be something you ask them for any time they read; now is a great time to emphasize the point so that they'll begin looking for it on their own!