

Perseus and Medusa

Imagine a monster with snakes as hair and eyes that would turn you into stone when you looked into them. What if you were sent on a mission to go and kill her? What would you do? Well if you can't think of the answer then maybe this story will help. Perseus was the son of Zeus who was a god sent on an impossible task to kill this monster named Medusa (Skidmore). He accomplished this task by getting gifts from the gods to help him defeat Medusa (Hunter). When he finally reached his destination, the lair of Medusa, he found her sleeping. So he used a sword he had received from one of the gods to cut off her head. He brought it back to the evil king who had sent him on this journey and when there was a banquet held in his honor he showed everyone the head and froze them (Skidmore). Perseus' and Medusa's myth shows common relationships with other stories and myths in older days and modern days.

The myth of Theseus and the Minotaur relates to the myth of Perseus and Medusa. The story of Theseus and the Minotaur is about a man who was sent into a maze and given the impossible task to kill a half man, half bull (Skidmore). He accomplished this task and killed the Minotaur. One way this story relates to the myth of Perseus and Medusa is that Perseus and Theseus were both assigned to kill a monster, which was very hard to defeat. Perseus killed a snake woman (Zimmerman), and Theseus killed a bull (Pontikis). They were also both sent on these impossible tasks by evil people who wanted to get rid of them. Perseus was sent by an evil king (Skidmore), and Theseus was also sent by an evil king (his dad) (Pontikis). This is one of the time periods that have common relationships with Perseus and Medusa. The next myth that shows common relationships with Perseus' and Medusa's myth is the heroic Bellerophon and the monster Chimaera.

The myth of Belerophon shows many of the same common relationships to the myth of Perseus and Medusa and Theseus and the Minotaur. Belerophon is like Perseus and Theseus because they were all sent by evil kings (Pontikis). Belerophon got accused of trying to seduce the king's wife, and off he was sent to face the Chimaera (Skidmore). Belerophon is also like Perseus because he was also helped from the goddess Athena. Athena had given Theseus Pegasus for him to ride. Perseus was given a mirrored shield and directions from Athena (Skidmore). They also both used flying devices that helped get them to the place. Perseus was sent winged sandals (Hunter), and Belerophon was sent Pegasus (Skidmore). Those are some ways how the myth of Belerophon shows common relationships to Perseus. Now I bet you're wondering how the myth of Perseus and Medusa shows common traits with modern day stories.

The book Harry Potter shows many common traits to the myth of Perseus and Medusa. The Harry Potter book series is about a young teenage wizard boy who tries to accomplish many hard tasks. One of the series of books is called Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. This book tells how Harry wants to find this girl who has been controlled/ possessed by this evil man. So Harry finds out where the girl is and has to get

past this giant snake to save the girl and eventually defeat it (Rowling). The first common trait is that Harry and Theseus were both sent things by people to help them complete their tasks. Harry was sent a sword to kill the snake with, and a phoenix to heal his wounds by the headmaster of the school (Rowling 319). Theseus was also sent a sword, winged sandals, special bag, a special helmet, and a device so he wouldn't have to look directly at the monster (Hunter). Another similarity between these two stories is the monsters. They both kill you when you look directly into their eyes. They both had the same method of defeating the monsters. Harry looked into the reflection of the water (Rowling 318), and Theseus used the device he was given to avoid looking directly into the monster's eyes (Hunter). As you can see both stories have close similarities.

I hope you now know, or have an idea about how to defeat this monster with snakes as hair, and eyes that will turn you into stone. Now, do you have any more questions on how myths from hundreds of years ago, and modern day stories have in common? No, I didn't think so. I hope you now know how many of our modern day stories originated from stories hundreds of years ago and have the same traits.

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