

# Medusa

## The Quest of Perseus



King Polydectes wanted to marry Perseus' mother Danae. Danae however did not want to marry him and was actually quite scared of him. Perseus worried about his mother and was always getting in the way of the King's plans to wed Danae.



So, one day, King Polydectes decided to send Perseus on a very dangerous mission in an attempt to get rid of him. He asked Perseus to go and kill the Medusa monster and bring back its head as proof he had succeeded. The Medusa was a hideous monster with bronze wings, claw-like hands, tusks for teeth, and live snakes for hair. This mission really was very dangerous and Polydectes didn't think Perseus would come back alive!



Before Perseus left on his mission, he was granted some gifts from the Gods, Athena, Goddess of Wisdom and Hermes who was messenger to the Gods. He was given a sharp sword, a bright polished shield, a cap that would make him invisible and some winged sandals that would allow him to fly. This made Perseus feel much more confident about his quest as with gifts from the Gods he knew he could not fail!





As Perseus entered the lair, he saw all around him figures of stone men and animals, all killed by one look into the Medusa's eyes. He approached quietly, he could see the hissing snakes of the Medusa's hair. He quickly turned around just in time to see the reflection of the monster in his bronze shield. Using the reflection as a guide, he swung his sword behind him and cut off the head of the Medusa in a mighty swoop.



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