



CLASS –VIII

English

Date:-18/04/2020

1 Read the passage given below and solve the questions in notebook.

Read this passage.

The Tale of Perseus and Medusa

In Greece, there was once a king named Acrisius who did a very cruel thing. An oracle had foretold that he would be killed by his own grandson. He was determined that this should not come to pass, so he tried to cheat the gods. He placed his beautiful daughter and her baby son in a chest, and threw them into the sea, thinking that by doing this he would never see them again, and need never fear his little grandson.

But the waves were kind to the princess and her child. The chest floated lightly upon the water, and at last came to rest upon the sandy beach of an island called Serifos. Here it was found by a fisherman, and the princess and her child were received and cared for by the ruler of the island.

They lived there for many years, while the boy, who was called Perseus, grew to be a strong and active youth. For some time the people were very kind to them; but at last the ruler of the island became vexed¹ at Perseus' mother, and made her his slave. Then, because Perseus had become such a strong young man, the king began to be afraid that he would try to avenge the injury which had been done to his mother. So he sent him far away on a dangerous journey, to the very ends of the earth. The king ordered Perseus to fetch him the head of Medusa.

Medusa was a terrible woman whose hair was a mass of living snakes. She was so hideous to behold, that just looking at her turned one to stone. Perseus set out obediently to fulfil the king's command. But he did not know at all where to find Medusa.

While he was wandering helplessly about, the god Hermes and the goddess Athena came to his aid, and gave him courage for his dreadful task. They told him that he must have a pair of winged sandals to help him on his way, and also a helmet which would make him invisible.

These wonderful things were to be found in the cave of some water-nymphs. The whereabouts of these nymphs were known only to some dreadful old women who had

only one eye and one tooth among them. They passed around their eye and tooth from one to the other as and when each needed them. Hermes led Perseus to these old women, and then left him. At first Perseus could not get them to tell him what he wished to learn. But when he stole their one eye as they passed it from one to another to look at him, they were glad enough to tell him what he wanted, in order to get back their eye.

When at last Perseus reached the cave of the nymphs, he easily obtained the sandals and the helmet. Putting these on, he soon reached the cave of Medusa, and found her lying asleep on the ground.

But he did not dare to approach her face to face, lest he should be turned to stone. Then it was that the goddess Athena came to his aid, and gave him her bright shield to use as a mirror. Holding this before him, Perseus walked backward, looking not upon Medusa, but only upon her reflection in the shield. When he was near enough, he struck off her head with a curved sickle which Hermes had given him, and, still without looking at it he thrust the head into a bag, and hurried away.



A. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did King Acrisius throw his daughter and grandson into the sea?
2. How did Perseus and his mother reach Serifos island?
3. Why did Perseus have to go on a quest for Medusa's head?
4. What happened to people who looked at Medusa's face?
5. What did Perseus do with Medusa's head?
6. Was Perseus a hero in your opinion? Why?

B. Tick the correct options.

1. Who was the grandfather of Perseus?

a. Acrisius

b. Zeus

c. Argos

2. Which Greek God is mentioned in the story?
a. Zeus b. Hermes c. Athena
3. Which two objects did Perseus have to obtain from the water-nymphs?
a. sandals and slippers b. winged sandals and helmet c. helmet and shoes
4. The dreadful old women had only one eye and
a. one ear b. one hand c. one tooth
5. Which gift was received by Perseus from the goddess Athena?
a. winged sandals b. a cloak that made him invisible c. a mirrored shield

C. Give one antonym for each of the following words from the text.

1. dangerous:
2. wonderful:
3. backward:
4. invisible:
5. obediently:

2 Watch the video on 'Prepositions' uploaded on 'e-learning platform' of 'Optimum International School'.

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