

Name: _____

Handout 30A: "Pegasus and Perseus" and "Pegasus and Bellerophon"

Directions: Read the text below and use the Word Box to help you with the words in **bold**. Circle unknown words that are not in the Word Box and that you cannot figure out from context.

Pegasus and Perseus

Long ago in ancient Greece, a young hero named Perseus was sent to destroy a dangerous monster. The monster, Medusa, was frighteningly ugly, with snakes growing out of her head. Merely looking at her caused death, and she had already killed many brave men. Perseus knew it would be difficult to kill Medusa. He asked Athena, the goddess of wisdom, for advice. Athena told Perseus not to look at Medusa's face. Instead, Athena told Perseus to look at Medusa's reflection in his shield. Perseus thanked Athena and set off to find Medusa.

When Perseus finally found Medusa, she was surrounded by statues, the men she had turned to stone when they dared to look at her. Perseus crept up, and looking only at her reflection, chopped off her head. He was amazed when Pegasus, a beautiful winged horse, as white as the purest snow, **emerged** from the neck of the **hideous** monster. Perseus immediately jumped on the horse's back and both Perseus and Pegasus escaped from Medusa's garden of death.

Adapted from

<http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/mythic-creatures/air-creatures-of-the-sky/greek-myths/>

Pegasus and Bellerophon

Bellerophon was a brave and proud Greek hero. He was sent to kill the terrifying Chimera. The Chimera was a fire-breathing monster with the head of a lion, the tail of a snake, and the body of a goat. A wise man told Bellerophon that to succeed, he would need to capture Pegasus, the flying horse. The wise man told Bellerophon to ask for help from the goddess Athena. Athena gave Bellerophon a golden bridle and the wise man told him where to find Pegasus. Bellerophon tamed Pegasus and the two flew off to find the Chimera. They killed the terrible monster and went on to share many other adventures.

As Bellerophon's success grew, so did his pride. He decided to fly on the back of Pegasus to Mount Olympus, home of the gods. Zeus, king of the gods, grew angry when he saw the mortal coming near. He sent a fly down to bite Pegasus. Pegasus **reared** back and Bellerophon tumbled back to Earth, like a pebble tossed from a mountain top. Pegasus continued on to Mount Olympus. On Olympus, Pegasus served Zeus by carrying his lightning bolt. When Pegasus finally died, Zeus turned him into a beautiful **constellation**. You can still see Pegasus, shining in the night sky, if you look up and search for the beautiful winged horse.

Adapted from

<http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/mythic-creatures/air-creatures-of-the-sky/greek-myths/>

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Word Box

emerged – came out of

hideous – very ugly

constellation – arrangement of stars that seems to make a picture and that is named for that picture

reared – rose up on back legs