

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Exploring Mood

Mood is the feeling you get from reading a piece of writing. Another way to describe mood is *atmosphere*. When you walk into a place, it has an atmosphere that makes you feel a certain way; when you “walk into” a story, it too has an atmosphere that creates a feeling. Writers create mood through word choice, imagery, dialogue, setting, and plot.

In this activity, you will consider the mood of Scene 7  
of *Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster*.

**SD3:** On one side of the stage is the opening of a cave.

**SD1:** The cave entrance is littered with dozens of statues—humans and animals that have been turned to stone.

**SD2:** With his winged sandals, Perseus lands softly on the stage.

**SD3:** Perseus’s eyes widen at the sight of the statues. He shivers at their frozen expressions of horror.

**Perseus (to himself):** How can I cut off Medusa’s head if I can’t even look at her?

**SD1:** Perseus catches his reflection in the shield.

**Perseus:** That’s it!

**SD2:** Perseus starts walking backward into the cave, using Athena’s shield as a mirror to see behind him.

**SD3:** Medusa and her sisters are sleeping.

**All Gorgons (snoring):** Sssnuughh . . .

Sssnuughh . . .

**SD1:** As Perseus gets closer, the snakes on Medusa’s head begin to writhe and hiss.

**Snakes:** Hissssssssssssss.

**SD2:** Medusa opens her eyes. Her hideous face contorts with rage.

**Medusa:** Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhh!

**SD3:** Still looking at the reflection in the shield, Perseus raises the sickle and swings it behind him.

**SD1:** Medusa’s head rolls away from her body.

**SD2:** Without looking at the head, Perseus grabs it and shoves it into the sack.

**SD3:** Medusa’s sisters awaken as Perseus rushes out of the cave.

**Gorgon 1:** Medusa! What has happened to you?

**Gorgon 2:** Who has done this dreadful deed?

**Gorgon 1 (pointing at Perseus):** There he is!

**Gorgon 2:** You will not escape!

**Gorgon 1:** We will avenge the death of our sister!

**SD1:** As the gorgons chase Perseus, he throws the Helmet of Darkness on his head and disappears.

**SD2:** The gorgons shriek in anger and frustration.

**Gorgons 1 & 2:** Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhh!

1. In the box below, write one or two words that describe the mood of Scene 7:

Now let’s look at what creates this mood.

## 2. Plot

Briefly explain how what is happening helps create the mood you identified.

## 3. Setting

Think about where the action takes place. How does this contribute to the mood?

## 4. Dialogue

What the characters say and how they say it helps create the mood.

**UNDERLINE at least three lines of dialogue in the scene that help create the mood you identified.**

## 5. Word Choice

Look at all the vivid verbs the playwrights use! These verbs help create the mood.

**CIRCLE at least five verbs in the scene that help create the mood you identified.**

## 6. Imagery

The imagery the playwrights use also helps create the mood. (Imagery is description that appeals to the reader's sense of sight, hearing, taste, smell, or touch—also known as sensory details.)

**PLACE A STAR NEXT TO at least three sensory details in the passage that help create the mood you identified.**

## 7. Mood Music

Imagine that you are going to make a movie based on *Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster*. What kind of music would you choose to play in the background of Scene 7? You can name a particular song or just describe the type of music you would choose.

**Music:**

**Why I chose this music:**