

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:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Exploring Mood

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You'll find out what the marks are for when you read the next page.

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SD2: The gorgons shriek in anger and frustration.

Gorgons 1 & 2: Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhh!

Here are two words that could be used to describe the mood of the passage:

frightening, suspenseful

Suspenseful means “causing a feeling of nervousness or excitement about what might happen.”

Now let's look at what creates this mood.

1. Plot

Complete the sentences below to explain how what is happening in the scene helps create the frightening and suspenseful mood.

In this scene, Perseus is about to _____.
_____. This is a _____ situation.

2. Setting

Complete the sentences below to explain where the action is happening and how this helps create the mood.

This action takes place in a _____.
_____. This setting adds to the frightening and suspenseful mood because _____.

3. Dialogue

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

We underlined one line of dialogue that helps create the frightening and suspenseful mood. **UNDERLINE two more lines of dialogue that do this.**

4. Word Choice

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

We circled one verb that helps create a frightening and suspenseful mood. **CIRCLE at least three more vivid verbs.**

5. 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.)

We placed a star by one sensory detail that helps create the frightening and suspenseful mood. **Place a STAR by at least two more sensory details.**

6. 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:

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Analyzing Perseus

Directions: List three admirable traits that Perseus displays in the play *Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster*. (*Admirable* means “deserving to be admired, respected, or approved of.”) Below each trait, tell what happens in the play that shows that Perseus has this trait. Use details from the play to support your ideas.

Admirable Trait 1: bravery	Admirable Trait 2:	Admirable Trait 3:
What happens that shows Perseus has this trait:	What happens that shows Perseus has this trait:	What happens that shows Perseus has this trait:

You can use what you have written above to help you to respond to the writing prompt on page 17 in *Scope*.

Close-Reading Questions

Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster

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4. In Scene 4, Hermes tells Athena that Perseus is “full of pride.” How do Perseus’s words and actions in this scene support Hermes’s statement? (text evidence, character)
5. In Scene 5, what do Perseus’s actions reveal about his character? (character)
6. In Scene 8, Danae tells Perseus, “You have killed a monster with a monster.” What does she mean? (interpreting text)

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Critical-Thinking Questions

Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster

1. Do you think Perseus was right to accept the king's quest? Why or why not?
2. In Scene 4, why do Athena and Hermes help Perseus? Do you think Perseus could have succeeded without their help?
3. Did King Polydectes deserve what happened to him at the end of the play? Why or why not?
4. At the end of the play, Danae tells Perseus that his name will be remembered forever. Do you think having your name remembered forever is a good goal? Explain.



Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster

Respond to each statement by checking “Agree” or “Disagree.” Be prepared to justify your responses.

	Agree	Disagree
1. Leadership and authority are the same thing.		
2. Citizens should stand up to leaders who abuse their power.		
3. Pride can be good, but it can also be bad.		
4. Perseverance is the most important quality when it comes to getting things done.		
5. Our fate is in our own hands.		
6. People usually get what they deserve: The good are rewarded and the bad are punished.		
7. It's important to admit when you need help.		
8. There are no such things as monsters.		

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Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster Quiz

Directions: Read *Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster*, then answer the questions below.

1. Choose the best summary of the play.

- (A) A young man uses winged sandals to fly to a faraway cave. His name is Perseus.
- (B) A kingdom suffers after a storm destroys many of its crops.
- (C) An evil king tricks a young man into hunting a monster; with the help of the gods, the young man defeats the monster and the king.
- (D) A snake-headed monster turns anyone who looks at her to stone.

2. In Scene 1, SD 3 says, “Danae clenches her jaw.”

This detail helps readers understand Danae is

- (A) happy that the king has come to visit her.
- (B) working hard in her garden.
- (C) displeased by the king’s presence.
- (D) eating the vegetables she is harvesting.

3. The king wants to marry Danae because

- (A) the kingdom admires her; marrying her would help him gain support and admiration.
- (B) she is wealthy; marrying her would allow him to grow his own wealth and power.
- (C) she is the mother of Perseus, whom the king wants to keep under close watch.
- (D) he has always loved her.

4. In Scene 3, Perseus agrees to the king’s request for Medusa’s head because

- (A) he wants to give the king the gift he desires.
- (B) he knows the secret to defeating a gorgon.
- (C) he fears punishment from the king.
- (D) the king appeals to Perseus’s pride.

5. Which TWO lines best support your answer to question 4?

- (A) “Congratulations on your upcoming marriage.”
- (B) “I am not lazy!”
- (C) “Yes. We do not want to anger the king.”
- (D) “Then killing this creature means I will become immortal, for my name will be remembered forever.”

6. On page 17, Gorgon 1 says, “We will avenge the death of our sister!” Based on context clues, which of the following is the definition of *avenge*?

- (A) to honor with a ceremony
- (B) to feel or express grief or sorrow
- (C) to harm or punish someone who has harmed you or someone that you care about
- (D) to feel disappointed over a missed opportunity

Constructed-Response Questions



Directions: Write your answers to the questions below on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

7. In Scene 1, King Polydectes asks Perseus, “Are the gods on your side too?” What is the answer to the king’s question—*are* the gods on Perseus’s side? Use text evidence to support your answer.

8. Athena says that Perseus is “full of pride.” Explain what she means and give two examples of Perseus’s behavior that support Athena’s statement.

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Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster Quiz

Directions: Read *Hunting A Snake-Headed Monster*. Then answer the questions below.

1. Which of the following details should definitely be included in a summary of the play?
 - (A) The Gray Sisters have gray, shriveled skin.
 - (B) A bad storm destroyed the kingdom's crops.
 - (C) To get rid of Perseus, the king tricks Perseus into hunting a monster.
 - (D) Perseus runs out of water during his quest.
2. In Scene 1, SD 3 says, "Danae clenches her jaw." This detail shows that Danae is
 - (A) happy that the king has come to visit her.
 - (B) working hard in her garden.
 - (C) not happy to see the king.
 - (D) eating the vegetables she is picking.
3. In Scene 2, the king says, "Marrying her would win me favor." He means that marrying Danae would help him
 - (A) gain his people's support and admiration.
 - (B) receive many gifts at their wedding celebration.
 - (C) get his way.
 - (D) watch over Perseus.
4. In Scene 3, the king asks Perseus to bring him Medusa's head because he wants to
 - (A) help Perseus become a hero.
 - (B) discover the secret to defeating a gorgon.
 - (C) punish Perseus for not bringing him a gift.
 - (D) get rid of Perseus so that he, the king, can marry Danae.
5. Which lines from Scene 3 help you understand why the king asks Perseus to get Medusa's head? Choose the TWO best answers.
 - (A) "The king sits on an ornate throne in a large room."
 - (B) "Only because that fool Perseus has poisoned her against me. How can I get rid of him?"
 - (C) "Your majesty, many crops were destroyed in the last storm. People are starving."
 - (D) "Yes! Send him on a quest he cannot possibly resist—or survive."
6. On page 17, Gorgon 1 says, "We will avenge the death of our sister!" Context clues reveal that *avenge* most closely means
 - (A) celebrate.
 - (B) mourn.
 - (C) take revenge for.
 - (D) regret.

Constructed-Response Questions



Directions: Write your answers to the questions below on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

7. In Scene 4, what happens that shows that the gods are on Perseus's side? Support your answer with text evidence.
8. Athena says that Perseus is "full of pride." Explain what she means and give one example of Perseus's behavior that supports Athena's statement.

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Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster

Character Thinking Tool

The questions in this activity are about the characters of
Perseus and King Polydectes

- 1.** Consider Scene 1. Perseus has only one short speaking line in this scene, but it reveals several things about him. What does it reveal?

- 2. A.** In Scene 2, Adviser 1 urges the king to appeal to Perseus's pride. What does it mean to appeal to a person's pride?

- B.** In Scene 3, how exactly does the king appeal to Perseus's pride?

3. What kind of person is King Polydectes? Support your answer with details from the play.

4. Do you think Perseus was foolish to accept King Polydectes's challenge, or do you think he did the right thing? Explain.

5. Do you think Perseus is a hero? Explain why or why not.

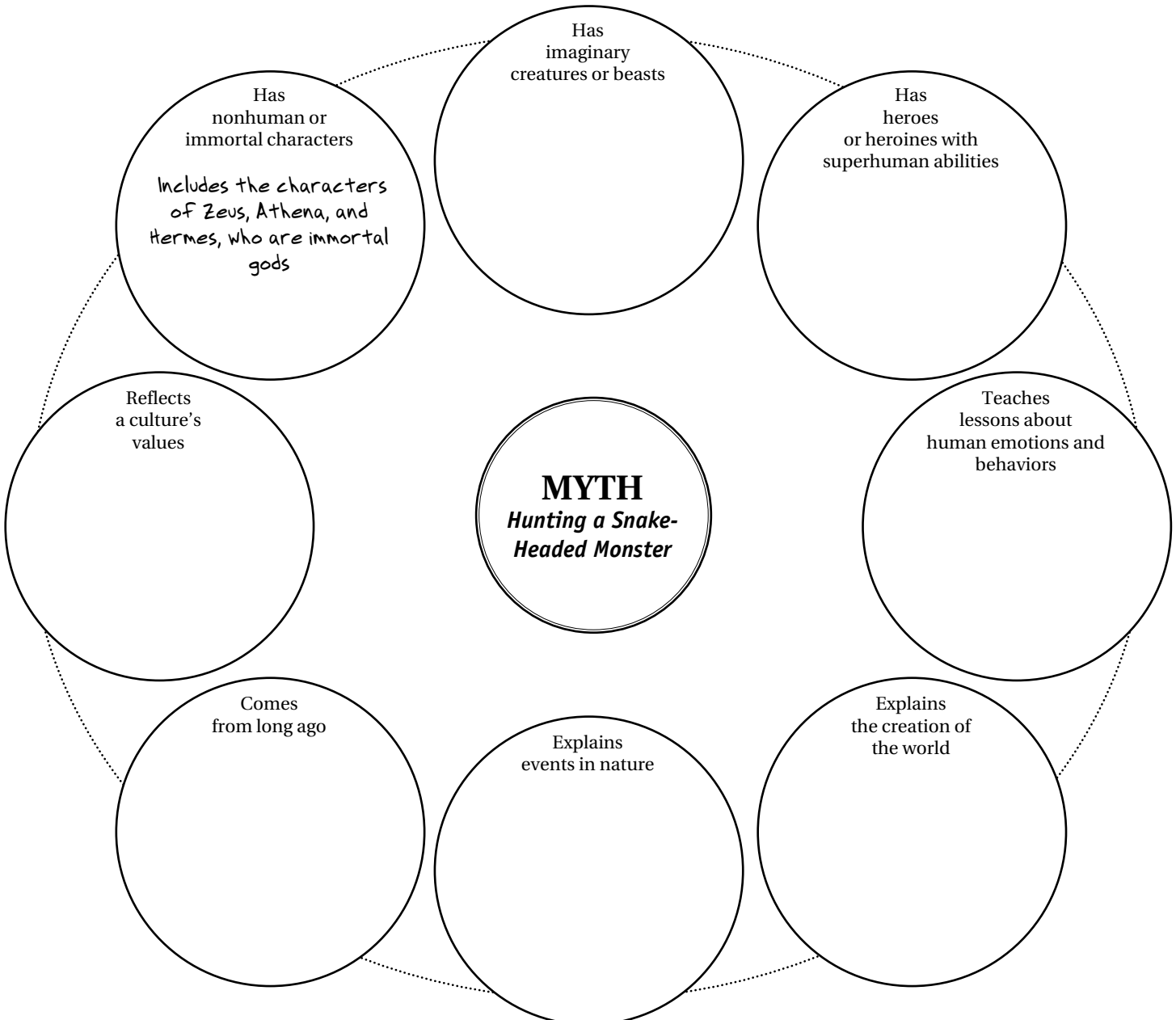
Name: _____ Date: _____

A
genre is
 a category of
 literature or art.
 Mystery, science fiction,
 historical fiction,
 and biography are
 all genres of
 literature.

Genre Exploration: *Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster*

This story belongs to two genres: drama and myth. In this activity, you will focus on what makes it a myth.

Directions: The graphic organizer below gives some common characteristics of myths. *Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster* does not have all these characteristics, but it has many of them. We've explained how the play shows one of these characteristics. **Choose FOUR more characteristics and briefly explain how the play shows those characteristics.**



Directions: Answer the questions below.

1. What other stories, plays, or movies have you read or seen that belong to the myth genre?

2. Greek myths often celebrate character traits that were considered important or admirable in ancient Greece.

A. What character traits does *Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster* celebrate through Perseus and his quest? Explain.

B. What character traits does the myth suggest are NOT admirable? Explain.

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Go to Scope
Online to listen
to the words
and definitions
read aloud!

Vocabulary:

Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster

1. **banish (BAN-ish)** *verb*; As it is used in the play, *banish* means “to send someone away from a country or place and order the person not to return.”
2. **demise (dih-MAHYZ)** *noun*; *Demise* means “death.” In the sixth book of the Harry Potter series, Hogwarts students grieve Professor Dumbledore’s demise. *Demise* can also refer to the end of something if that end is like a death. Some say e-readers like Kindles will lead to the demise of bookstores.
3. **immortal (ih-MAWR-tl)** *adjective or noun*; Something that is immortal lives forever; it never dies. *Immortal* is used as a noun to refer to a being that lives forever. The gods and goddesses of Greek mythology were immortals.
4. **intervene (in-ter-VEEN)** *verb*; If you intervene in a situation, you get involved in it to change or stop what is happening. If you see your little brothers shoving one another, you might intervene and help them settle their argument in a more peaceful way.
5. **lavish (LAV-ish)** *adjective*; As it is used in the play, *lavish* means “generous or excessive; in other words, giving or involving a very large amount of something.” A house with seven bedrooms, four bathrooms, and an indoor pool could be described as lavish.
6. **menacing (MEN-uhs-eeng)** *adjective*; The verb *menace* (MEHN-uhs) means “to threaten.” If a cat is swiping at every dog that walks by, the cat is menacing the dogs in the neighborhood.
The adjective *menacing* describes something that is threatening or suggests the presence of danger. The Joker speaks to Batman in a menacing voice. Dark storm clouds make the sky look menacing.
7. **ruse (rooz)** *noun*; A ruse is an action or a plan that is meant to mislead or fool someone. If you are throwing a surprise birthday party for your mom, you’ll need to come up with a clever ruse to keep her out of the house while you set up.
8. **writhe (rahyth)** *verb*; To writhe is to twist, squirm, or bend the body out of shape, often because of pain or discomfort. In the second Hunger Games book, a poisonous fog causes the tributes to writhe in pain on the forest floor.

Directions: In the space below and on the back of this page (if necessary), list any other words from the play whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

Vocabulary Practice

Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster

Directions: Answer each prompt below. Briefly explain your answer.

1. Which seems more menacing: a hungry lion or a sleeping kitten?

Answer:

Why:

3. Which of the following is an immortal: a vampire or a butterfly?

Answer:

Why:

2. If two hockey players are fighting, who intervenes: a referee or a fan watching on TV?

Answer:

Why:

4. Which is a lavish display of flowers: a room overflowing with hundreds and hundreds of flowers, or a single daisy in a vase?

Answer:

Why:

Directions: Underline the boldfaced word in each pair that best completes the sentence.

5. After our dog ate a hamburger off the dinner table, my parents **writhed/banished** him to the backyard for the evening.

6. When the Big Bad Wolf suggests that Red Riding Hood pick flowers for her grandma, it's just a **ruse/demise** to buy him time so he can arrive at Grandma's cottage first.

7. The soccer player **writhed/banished** in pain after twisting his ankle.

8. My older brother got a job on Saturday mornings, which led to the **demise/ruse** of our weekly waffle-eating competitions.

Hunting a Snake-Headed Monster

Pronunciation Guide to Names

**Go to Scope
Online to listen
to these names
pronounced
aloud!**

Athena [ah-THEE-nah]

Danae [DAN-uh-ee]

Gorgon [GAWR-guhn]

Hermes [HUR-meez]

Medusa [mih-DUE-sah]

Nymph [NIMF]

Polydectes [pah-lee-DEHK-teez]

Perseus [PUR-see-uhs]

Note: Scope does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file.

Medusa Contest

The Greek myths celebrated character traits that the ancient Greeks admired. What traits does the story of Perseus celebrate? Answer in the form of a slideshow or essay. Five winners will get *The Trials of Apollo: The Burning Maze* by Rick Riordan.

Entries will be judged on:

- ⇒ a clearly stated central idea
- ⇒ good organization and transitions
- ⇒ use of supporting text evidence
- ⇒ grammar, spelling, and punctuation

My name: _____

My home phone number: _____ My grade: _____

My teacher's name: _____ My teacher's e-mail: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

School phone number: _____

My parent or legal guardian consents
to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature: _____

Include this form with your written entry and send both to: scopemag@scholastic.com
or mail them to: Medusa Contest, c/o Scope, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY October 15, 2018!