

The Story of Medusa and Athena

Sentences and Capital Letters

Read the story to your child, explain bits they might not understand (like what a cobbler and blacksmith does) then get them to circle the full stops and capital letters.

All the sentences start with a capital,
Peoples names like "Medusa" start with a capital.
Places like "Greece" start with a capital.

The Story of Medusa and Athena

Based on Greek mythology

Once upon a time, there lived a beautiful woman called Medusa. Medusa lived in the city of Athens in a country named Greece. Although there were many pretty girls in the city, Medusa thought she was the most lovely.

But, Medusa was very proud of her beauty and she spoke about it all the time. Every day she boasted of how pretty she was.

On Sunday, Medusa bragged to the miller that her skin was more beautiful than fresh fallen snow. On Monday, she told the cobbler that her hair glowed brighter than the sun. On Tuesday, she told the blacksmith's son that her eyes were greener than the sea. On Wednesday, she boasted to everyone at the park that her lips were redder than the reddest rose.

When she wasn't busy telling people about her beauty, Medusa would gaze lovingly at her reflection in the mirror. She admired herself in her hand mirror for an hour each morning as she brushed her hair. She



looked at herself for an hour each evening as she got ready for bed. She even stopped to admire herself in the well every afternoon as she drew water for her father's horses. She often forgot to fetch the water because she was so busy looking at herself.

On and on Medusa talked about her beauty to anyone who stopped long enough to listen - until one day when she made her first visit to the Parthenon with her friends. The Parthenon was the largest temple to the goddess Athena. It was decorated with amazing statues and paintings. Everyone who went there was surprised by the beautiful statues.

Medusa did not like the statues.



The Parthenon in Greece.

When Medusa saw the sculptures and statues, she whispered that a statue of her would be much prettier

When Medusa saw the paintings, she said "it's OK, but Athena has really thick eyebrows, and I would look more beautiful."

Medusa sighed happily and said, "This is a beautiful temple. It is a shame it was wasted on Athena, because I am so much prettier than she is."

Medusa's friends were shocked. The people in the temple were scared and quickly began to leave. Everyone knew that the goddess Athena enjoyed watching over the people of Athens and they were scared of what might happen if Athena had overheard Medusa's nasty words.

Before long the temple was empty of everyone except Medusa, who was so busy looking proudly at her reflection, that she hadn't noticed that everyone else had gone.



Athena

Then Athena appeared!

"Vain and foolish girl," Athena said angrily, "You think you are prettier than I am! There is more to life than beauty. While everyone else is working, or playing or going to school, all you do is boast and look at yourself in the mirror."

Medusa spluttered that her beauty was an inspiration to those around her and that she made their lives better by simply looking so lovely, but Athena silenced her with a wave of her arm.

"Nonsense," Athena said, "Your beauty will fade as you grow old.. Your beauty does not help anyone, it does not comfort the sick, or feed the hungry. And by my powers, your loveliness shall be gone. Your punishment will be a reminder to other people to control their pride."

And with those words Medusa's face changed to that of a hideous monster. Her hair twisted and thickened into horrible snakes that hissed and fought each other atop her head. Her skin grew old and twisted and wrinkled. Her lips went thin and her eyes sunk into her shrivelled face.

Medusa screamed!

"Medusa, for your pride this has been done. Your face is now so terrible that if anyone should see you they will turn to stone" said the goddess, "Even you, Medusa, should you seek your reflection, shall turn to rock the instant you see your face."

And with that, Athena sent Medusa with her hair of snakes to live with the blind monsters at the end of the earth, so that nobody would be accidentally turned to stone at the sight of her.



Draw Medusa here: