

ADVOCATING FOR EMERGENT BILINGUALS THROUGH LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

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Activity #2 Analyzing a text linguistically

Read the following excerpt of this 6th grade academic text, “Shrouded in Myth” by Jessica Fisher Neidl. With your partner or group, discuss the answers to the following questions.

When Perseus grew up, Polydectes gave him a series of challenging tasks to complete. Armed with a sword made by the god Hermes, winged sandals, and a shiny bronze shield given to him by the goddess Athena, Perseus slew the dreaded monster Medusa. This hideous creature had writhing snakes for hair, elephant-like tusks for teeth, and blood-red eyes. Whoever looked at her was instantly turned to stone. As success followed success, Perseus began to think about the stories he had heard about his grandfather, Acrisios. So, after a brief visit to his mother, the young hero set sail for Argos. Before he reached it, however, Acrisios got word that his long-lost grandson was coming and fled the city, for he still feared the prophecy.

1. What background or prior knowledge do you need to be able to place this text in context?
2. Identify the academic vocabulary in this text. Which words are crucial to understanding this text?
3. What images or pre-reading activities would you want to do with your students to prepare them to read this text?
4. Identify the main subject and predicate of each sentence of the text, ignoring any additional clauses. How is this important to reading comprehension?
5. Phonologically, which aspects of the language of this text would you need to practice in terms of pronunciation and intonation/stress with your students to make sure they can get the words off the page?