

Perseus

In a far-off land, there lived a man named Perseus. To call him good-looking would be to waste the opportunity to use the word 'striking'. His muscles were as strong as stone. His face caused people to stop and turn in the street. But there was a problem. A crazy old man who lived in a van with a sign saying "psychic" on the side, had spoken to the managing director of a large company. He had said that a handsome boy would come along and take his job. When he heard about handsome Perseus, he took action.

At the same time as Perseus was growing into his muscles, a strange thing was happening elsewhere. Many of the inhabitants of a small city were discovering that their loved ones had been turned to stone. Obviously, this caused some concern. Being an important businessman, Mr Acrisius (the man who had visited the psychic) had heard of their problem and hatched a cunning plan. Realising that he could kill two birds with one stone-making monster, he arranged for Perseus to be sent to the city to defeat whatever he found. If he failed and was turned to granite, all the better.

The hero took to the skies and formed a plan. He would travel to Gorgonzola, the large cheese conglomerate where the monster was said to work. There, he would see what was going on. When he arrived, he didn't even wait for his suitcase before he set off. After all, you don't need clean underpants to battle a monster, though you may need them afterwards.

It was early evening by the time he arrived, but he caught a glimpse of the monster wandering through the corridors beyond the tall glass windows. He stood and watched for a while. From a distance, the beast looked more like a beautiful woman with long, thick curls. In other circumstances, he might have fallen in love with her. She was dressed in a sharp blue suit with thin pinstripes and a pair of sensible but stylish shoes. On her lapel, she wore a badge that read SALES MANAGER. As he watched, he saw her catch the eye of the night-guard (a kindly old man) wandering about his business. Immediately, he froze solid. It didn't take long for Perseus to realise



that to look into the monster's eyes meant death. She had the cold, deadly stare of somebody who spent their day looking at slide-shows.

"How can I defeat a woman I can't even look at?" he pondered. Then, while staring at his reflection in the shiny glass windows, an idea popped into his pretty head. Thinking fast, he rattled the door handle before ducking behind a tall, manicured bush. The monster hurried to the door and sprinted out into the night to see what the trouble was. Picking his moment, Perseus slid through the door and into the foyer. Closing his eyes, he banged against the glass window.

After a few moments, he dared to open his eyes a crack. The monster stared back at him through the mirrored glass, only now her eyes were stone and her features frozen in eternal surprise. As a reward for his endeavour, Perseus was given a small hatchback car and a lifetime supply of soft cheese. The psychic's vision never came true.



RETRIEVAL

1. What word does the other think would be a better word to describe Perseus?
2. How strong were his muscles?
3. What was the name of the important business man?
4. What was the name of the large cheese conglomerate?
5. Where did the monster wear her badge?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V

What does the author mean by "growing into his muscles"?

V

Find the definition of the word "circumstances".

P

What do you think happened to the people who had been turned to stone?

E

Explain how you know Perseus was in a rush to see the monster.

I

How did Perseus feel about the monster's beauty?