

THE LIGHTNING THIEF

Nonfiction
Readings

OVERVIEW OF CONTENTS

- 22 Nonfiction Reading Assignments
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Text-to-Novel Connections
- Great for Cross-Curricular Learning
- Digital Links for Google Drive™
- Answer Keys!

NONFICTION READINGS

NAME: _____

DATE: _____



CHAPTER 4 – THE MINOTAUR

The Minotaur, or Pasiphae's son, is best known in Greek mythology for the myth of the Labyrinth. The Minotaur was the son of Pasiphae and King Minos, the ruler of Crete. In order to prove his legitimacy as ruler over his brothers, King Minos claimed that the gods would fulfill any request he made. So, he requested a bull from Poseidon and upon receiving that bull he would sacrifice it to honor the god. Poseidon provided the bull, but King Minos did not fulfill his end of the bargain.

As a result of King Minos's deception, Poseidon cursed King Minos' wife and filled her with desire for the bull. Some variations of the myth claim that Poseidon enlisted the help of Aphrodite. Regardless, Pasiphae laid with the bull and eventually birthed a son she named Asterion who was half bull and half man.

Pasiphae attempted to raise her son, but he became too strong and powerful for her to control him. Consequently, King Minos commanded the help of Icarus and Daedalus, and the duo created the Labyrinth to imprison the Minotaur. At the same time the Labyrinth was being constructed, King Minos came into conflict over the death of his only human son. His son died in Athens and King Minos wanted **retribution** from the city. After consulting the oracle of Delphi, the city of Athens agreed to King Minos's terms and would sacrifice beautiful youths to the Labyrinth.

Soon after, the king of Athens's son, Theseus, volunteered with a plan to go and kill the Minotaur. When he went to Crete, King Minos's daughters fell in love with Theseus and helped him with his mission. They gave him a ball of thread to take into the Labyrinth so that when Theseus needed to find his way out, he would simply follow the thread. Theseus successfully killed the Minotaur and found his way out and took the daughters home with him to Athens.

1. What generalization can be made about the type of ruler King Minos was? Use at least two pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer.

2. What is the meaning of the word "**retribution**" as used in the passage? Support with evidence from the text.

3. What does the author mean by the phrase, "King Minos did not fulfill his end of the bargain"? Support with evidence from the text.

➤ 22 Nonfiction Readings

➤ Topics on Ancient Greek Mythology

➤ Text Features

➤ Common Core-Aligned Material

NAME: _____

DATE: _____



CHAPTER 11 – MEDUSA IN ART

The story of Perseus and Medusa is arguably one of the most famous Ancient Greek myths. The myth, where Perseus slays the Gorgon Medusa by looking at her in Athena's shield, has been memorialized since its emergence around 600 BCE. Medusa's face, hair made of snakes, and her ability to turn people to stone are legendary. Her image can be found in poetry, literature, sculpture, pottery, weapons, and even architecture. Her presence is still **ubiquitous**. But why?

In Ancient Greek history, the tale of Medusa was not as supernatural as we believe it to be today. The Greeks viewed myths as part of a history where mortals interacted with the gods and monsters. Although the myth of Medusa and Perseus presents her as an evil entity, her character was more complex, and her image was frequently used to ward off evil. Evil warding off evil.



The different artistic mediums mentioned above portrayed Medusa's image in a unique way. While most figures at the time were depicted **in profile**, Medusa's head faced viewers head on. Her image also changed throughout history; her image transformed from a scary monster with a beard and fangs to a more human and feminine appearance.

1. What is the passage mostly about? Support your answer with textual evidence.

2. What does the word "**ubiquitous**" mean as used in the passage? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

3. What does the phrase "**in profile**" mean as used in the passage? Support with evidence from the text.

4. Infer as to why Medusa's appearance changed as time went on. Support with evidence from the text.



Depth of
Knowledge
Questions



Text
Connections to
Novel



Use for
Centers or
Rotation Model



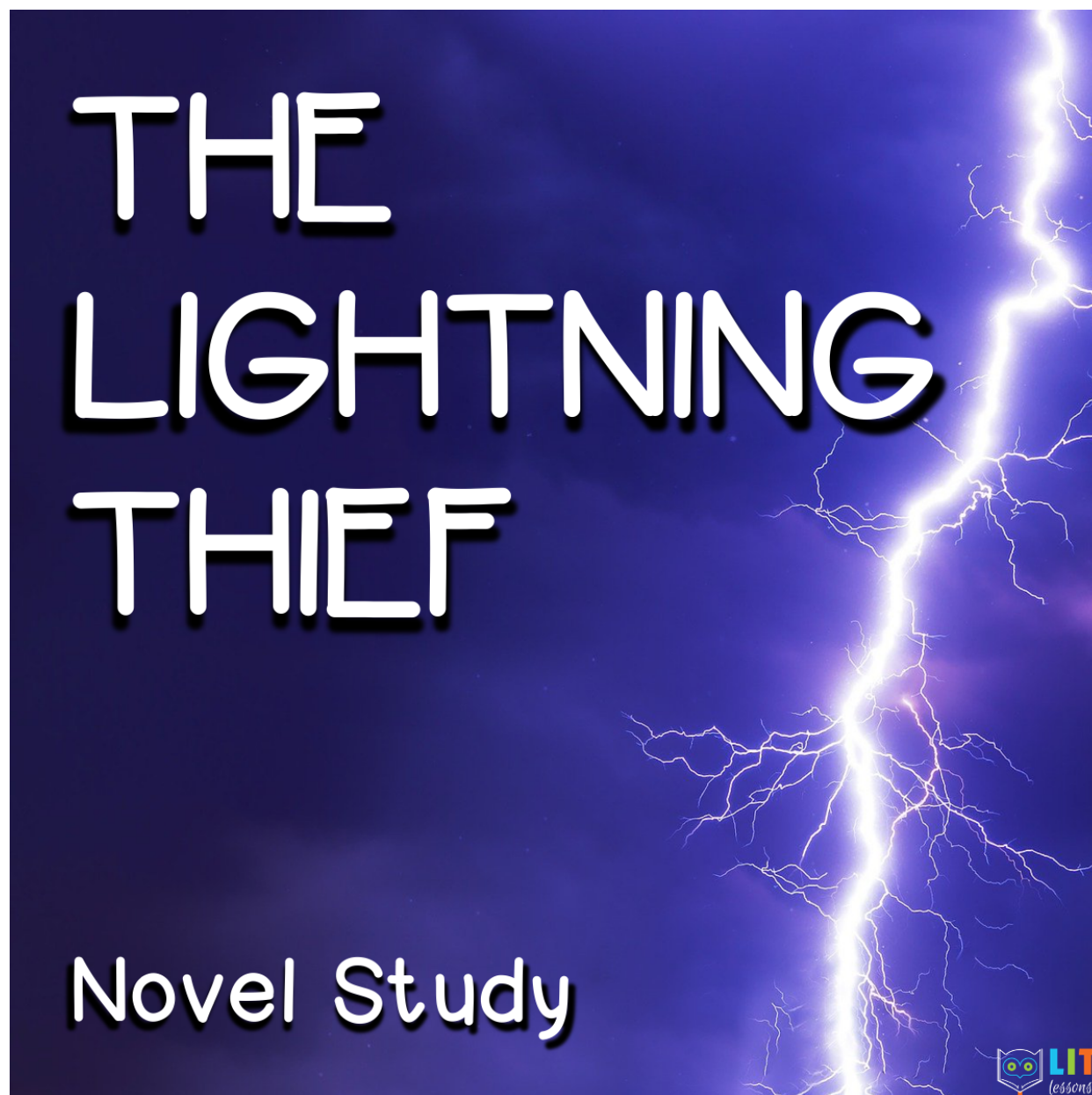
Cross-
Curricular
Learning

RESOURCE ALSO INCLUDES...

Answer Keys • Google Drive™ Links

BUNDLE & SAVE!

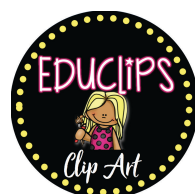
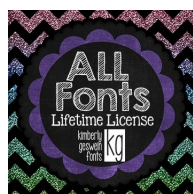
This resource is part of a comprehensive unit on *Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief*! Click the cover below to preview all the resources available.



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