**Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)**

**Question Bank: PERSEUS THE BRAVE**

1. Who was Acricius? How many children he had? What did the Oracle tell him?

Ans. King Acricius ruled over the kingdom of Argolis in Ancient Greece. He had a daughter whose name was Danae, but he had no sons to succeed him to the throne. The Oracle told King Acricius that he would never have any sons. Furthermore, his end would come at the hands of his grandson, the son of Danae.

1. Who was the Oracle?

Ans. The Oracle was a spirit who could tell the future, and a special temple had been built for him in Greece. Anyone who wanted to know his future could go to this temple and ask the Oracle to tell him what the future would bring. Although no one could see the Oracle, a voice would answer the questions that were asked.

1. What did the king do after knowing the Oracle’s prophecy?

Ans. The king was so upset when he heard the Oracle’s prophecy that he immediately put the innocent Danae in prison to prevent the Oracle’s prophecy from coming true.

1. What orders about Danae’s child were given by the king?

Ans. He gave orders that Danae and her child were to be put into a wooden box and set adrift in the sea. The king was sure that they would not survive the elements for long and they would soon die.

1. What had fate planned for Danae and her child?

Ans. Danae and her child did not die, Fate had other plans for them. The box floated on. The child slept peacefully, and after a while, Danae too, faint with hunger and grief, fell into a deep sleep. When she awoke, she found that the box had been washed ashore an island.

1. Who saved Danae and her child? Who was he? How did he save them?

Ans. Dictys save Danae and her child. He was a simple and honest fisherman who lived on the island of Seriphos. One morning, as he was walking along the shore, he heard the crying of a baby. He was astonished to see a drooping young girl with a tiny baby in her arms, and he immediately went to their help.

1. How did Perseus come to live on the island of Seriphos?

Ans. Danae told him her story and begged him to help her. Dictys was moved by her

plight and told Danae that he was old and grey, his wife and him and no children to

bring happiness to their home. He told Danae to go with him and she would be his

daughter and her baby their grandchild. Dictys then took them home and took good

care of them. Danae and her son, Perseus, thus came to live on the island of Seriphos.

1. Describe young Perseus.

Ans. Perseus was a strong lad, a head taller than all the other boys on the island. He was brave and truthful, gentle and courteous, and highly skilled in sports and music. The good Dictys had trained him well. Perseus was loved by everyone in Seriphos.

1. Describe Polydectus. What plan did Polydectus make to get rid of Perseus?

Ans. Polydectus, the brother of Dictys, was the king of Seriphos. Unlike his brother, Polydectus was greedy, cunning and cruel. He became jealous of Persues and wanted to get rid of him. So he drew up and elaborate plan. He made arrangements for a great feast. Every man on the island was invited to attend the feast and bring s gift for the king as a sign of respect.

1. What happened when Perseus was not able to bring a present for the king?

Ans. When Perseus was not able to bring a present, the king and his courtiers made fun of Perseus for coming to the feast emptyhanded. Perseus felt humiliated by this treatment. Unable to put up with the jeering of the king and his courtiers, he cried out that he would bring the king a present that no man has ever received.

1. What did Polydectus demand from Perseus? Did Perseus agree?

Ans. Polydectus demanded the Gorgon Medusa’s head. He also told Perseus to never appear on the island again without it and until then, his mother would be Polydectus’ slave. In his anger, Perseus rashly promised to bring Polydectus the gift that he demanded.

1. Describe the Gorgons and Medusa.

Ans. The Gorgons, of whom Medusa was one, were three terrible sisters with tusks like boars, hands made up of brass and wings like those of a bat. They lived far away, in a land of stony hills and dark valleys. Medusa was the worst of the Gorgons. She had live snakes growing out of the head instead of hair. Anyone who looked into her wicked face was instantly turned into a stone by her magic.

1. What happened on Mount Olympus? Who came to help Perseus?

Ans. The gods and the goddesses on Mount Olympus had heard that Perseus was

setting off on an adventure for the sake of his mother. They decided to help the brave boy. As Perseus sat looking out into the sea, he saw a cloud floating down from the skies till it reached the cliffs. The cloud parted, and in the bright light stood the gods Hermes and Athena.

1. Mention the conversation between Perseus and Athena.

Ans. As Perseus bowed down to Athena, the goddess of wisdom, she told him to think well before he set out on the journey. She told him that it would take seven long years to carry out the task. But Perseus did not change his mind.

1. What did the Gods give Perseus?

Ans. The gods explained Perseus what he had to do. They also gave him gifts, which were, a highly polished magical shield, in which he could see the reflection of Medusa’s face without looking at her; a pair of winged sandals to help him fly across the sea; a magical helmet which would make its wearer invisible and a magic sword to cut off Medusa’s head.

1. What did the Gods tell Perseus before disappearing? What did Perseus do after

Gods disappeared?

Ans. The Gods wished him luck, bade him goodbye and told him to fly to the land of Grey Ladies, who would tell him where the Gorgons lived. When the Gods had disappeared, Perseus strapped on the sandals, put the helmet on his head and buckled the shield on his arm. He took a step forward and found himself flying. He flew on for many days until he reached a country that was dark and cold. After a long search, he found the Grey Ladies.

1. Describe Grey ladies.

Ans. The Grey Ladies were incredibly old and had only one eye and one tooth among the three of them. In order to see anything, they had to borrow the eye from one another and when they wanted to eat, they had to borrow the tooth.

1. What happened when Perseus went to them?

Ans. Perseus went to them and asked them politely where Medusa lived. The Grey Ladies were foolish and quarrelsome and did not want to help him. So Perseus snatched the eye and tooth from them and threatened to throw both into the sea unless they helped him. In a frightened voice, they instantly told him where he could find the Gorgons. Perseus returned the eye and the tooth to them and flew off to find Medusa

1. Describe Land of the Gorgons.

Ans. The Land of the Gorgons was even more terrible than the country of the Grey

Ladies. There was nothing to be seen except long stretches of sand. Trees, flower and

animals had all been turned into stone. There were stone images of men everywhere.

These were the people who looked at the Gorgons and had been turned to stone as a

result. Perseus knew he had to be very careful. He made sure that he was wearing the

helmet which the gods had given him.

1. What happened after Perseus found the dark cave?

Ans. Perseus found the dark cave in which the Gorgons lived and waited until they were asleep. As instructed by the gods, he used the polished shield as a mirror to find his way and did not look at anything directly. He saw the reflection of the sleeping

Gorgons. He was able to recognize Medusa from the horrible snakes that grew on

head in place of hair. He cut off her head with a single blow and put it inside a bag which he carried. Then, he flew swiftly away before the other two Gorgons could catch him.

1. Mention the first exciting adventures that Perseus had as he flew across unknown

lands.

Ans. Perseus had many other exciting adventures. One day, as the sun was about to set, he stopped in the land of Hesperides, where Atlas, a Titan, was guarding the city gates. Perseus was tired and asked Atlas if he could rest there for the night. But Atlas refused. They began to argue and soon the argument turned into a fight. Finally, Perseus took out Medusa’s head from his bag. Atlas looked at it and was immediately turned into stone.

1. What experience did Perseus had after he passed Chemmis and Philistia?

Ans. Perseus continued his journey to Seriphos. He passed Chemmis (now Egypt) and Philistia (now Isarel) where he saw a beautiful girl chained to a rock near the seashore. Perseuus was curious to know why the young girl had been chained to the rock. He came down and talked to the group of people standing there. They told him that she was Andromeda, the daughter of Cepheus, king of the land.

1. Why was Andromeda chained?

Ans. Andromeda’s mother, the queen had boasted that Andromeda was more beautiful than the daughters of the sea. This angered Poseidon, the sea-god so much that he sent a monster to destroy the land. No one could kill the monster. The King then consulted an Oracle and asked him what he should do to save his land and people. The Oracle said that the monster would leave them alone if Andromeda was given to him as a sacrifice. That is why she was chained to this rock until the monster comes to devour her.

1. What did Perseus do to save Andromeda? What happened next?

Ans. Perseus faced the monster bravely when it appeared. After a long struggle, Persus cut off the head of the monster with the same sword with which he had severed the head of Medusa. Andromeda was returned safely to her parents. There was great rejoicing and King Cepheus was so happy that he gave Perseus Andromeda’s hand in marriage.

1. How did Polydectus react when he saw Perseus alove? How did Perseus prove his

bravery?

Ans. Poludectus was shocked to see Perseus alive. He refused to believe that Perseus had killed Medusa because he could not imagine that any mortal could remain alive after visiting the Gorgons. Polydectus then asked him to give a proof that Perseus had killed Medusa. Perseus opened the bag and took out Medusa’s head, keeping his own head turned away. But Polydectus was so eager to see the proof which Perseus had promised to show him that he forgot what could happen if he looked at the head of Medusa. In an instant, he turned into a stone statue.

1. Who was made the king after Polydectus died? What did Perseus do then?

Ans. Dictys who was good and kind was made the king of the land. The people of Seriphos were happy to have Dictys as their king. His task was successfully completed. Perseus thanked the gods for their help and returned the gifts. Perseus gave Athena the head of Medusa, which she fixed on her shield.

1. Describe in detail what happened in Angolis.

Ans. Danae wanted to return to her old home in Argolis. Perseus went to Argolis with his mother and Andromeda. When they reached there, they found that special games and competitions were being held in that country. King Acricius was there too, watching the events. Perseus decided to take part in the discus-throwing competition. He threw the discus as hard as he could. But unfortunately, the discuss struck King Acricius in the foot, killing him instantly. The prophecy of the Oracle was thus fulfilled.

1. Was Perseus happy to have killed his grandfather? Where did he go after that?

What happened then?

Ans. Perseus was greatly upset as he had not intended to hurt his grandfather. He went to Tiryns, where the people chose him as their King. Perseus lived to be a wise and well-loved king and built many great cities.