


Literacy World Comets Stage 3: Two Sides of the Coin Guided Reading Card Framework Edition



Stage 3

Title: Two Sides of the Coin

Authors: Geraldine McCaughrean, Jan Mark

Year: 5 **Genre:** Traditional Stories

Summaries

The Side of the Coin tells two different versions each of two classic tales. The Lambton Worm and the Grimditch Worm are medieval and modern versions of the same story. Perseus the Hero and Medusa the Beauty tell the same Greek myth from the point of view of Perseus, then from the point of view of Medusa.

The Lambton Worm

As a boy, John Lambton finds a worm and throws it into the well. When John grows up, he becomes a famous crusader. Meantime, the worm has grown enormous, and begins to wreak havoc. John returns to find the village destroyed. He consults a witch, who tells him how to kill the worm. She also tells him that he must kill the first living thing he sees afterwards, or his family will die the horrible deaths for generations. John kills the worm, and his father rushes to meet him. John cannot bring himself to kill his father, and generation after generation of the Lambton family die far from home.

The Grimditch Worm

Lord Grimditch is a well-made millionaire. His son, United, is a disappointment. When his dad gives him a JCB, he digs up a worm, throws it into the river, then causes traffic chaos. His father packs him off to America. Meanwhile, at home, a vicious worm emerges from a manhole. When they run out of options, the local council emails United for help. He consults the website www.wisewoman.co.uk, who advises him to get some armour, kill the worm, then slay the next living thing he sees, or his family will be cursed for years. United slays the worm using his JCB, but the next person he sees is his father. He is worried that the Grimditch will die in his bed, but his father says they will all die with their boots on – and they go for a drink.

Perseus the Hero

Perseus' grandfather hears a prophecy that his grandson will kill him, so he casts his daughter and her child into the sea. They survive, and years later Perseus accepts a challenge to bring back the head of the Gorgon Medusa. It's a fatal mission; Medusa's face kills everyone who sees eyes on her. Perseus finds magical objects along the way: a shield, a helmet that makes him invisible, and some sandals that allow him to fly. He uses the shield as a mirror, and chops off Medusa's head by looking at her reflection. Then he puts the head in a sack, and flies home. Perseus decides to visit his grandfather's kingdom. The Games have begun, and Perseus throws the discus, impressing the crowd. The discus strikes, killing the King, his grandfather.

Medusa the Beauty

When Medusa is born she is beautiful, unlike her ugly triplet sisters. The sea god, Poseidon, falls in love with her, and she becomes pregnant with his child. Athena, goddess of war, turns Medusa into a gorgon. She is so ugly that one look at her face will kill a man. She has snakes for hair, and her thoughts become evil and cunning. Poseidon puts Medusa on a remote rock to protect mankind. Then one day Perseus arrives to kill her. When she sees her own reflection in his shield, she wants to die. Perseus chops off her head, and her child escapes from her body: it is a flying horse, Pegasus, who gallops off towards the gods.

Primary Framework Objectives:

YS strand 7: Use evidence from across a text to explain events or ideas

YS strand 7: Explore how writers use language for comic and dramatic effects

YS strand 8: Compare how a common theme is presented in prose

Filesize: 4.09 MB

Reviews

This published publication is fantastic. it had been writtern very perfectly and useful. Once you begin to read the book, it is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding.
(Junius Herman)

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