

Andromeda and Perseus

by Ashleigh Young

Summary

The people of ancient Greece told the story of Andromeda and Perseus to explain the origins of the constellations named after them. This book retells this myth.

Features of the Text

- Retelling of a myth
- Explanation of things in the natural world
- Third-person narrative
- Cultural and historical setting
- Pronunciation guide to Greek names
- Mythological creatures and humans with supernatural powers

Purpose

Andromeda and Perseus can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- analyzing the features of myths;
- comparing and contrasting characters;
- making inferences.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Ask the students to look at the illustrations on the cover and page 2.

– *What can you infer about the setting and the characters in the story?*

Explain that this is a myth, and discuss the purposes of myths by referring to other examples. Discuss the kinds of characters that often feature in myths.

– *How are myths similar to and different from other narratives?*

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 5.

– *How would you describe Andromeda?*

– *What hints are there of how Andromeda and Perseus became constellations?*

Explain that myths often involve strongly contrasting characters.

Ask the students to read to the end of page 10, thinking about the differences between the characters and how this affects the storyline.

– *How is Andromeda different from her mother?*

– *Why did Perseus think that Andromeda was being treated unfairly?*

– *What does this say about Andromeda's character?*

Ask the students to read to the end of the story.

– *How are Andromeda and Perseus similar?*

– *How do you think this myth originated?*

– *Do you think there is any historical truth behind this myth?*

Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 37 to compare and contrast two different myths
- research other constellations and myths around them, for example, Orion's Belt and Aquarius
- read other myths to compare character traits and identify any similar patterns
- write a myth to explain the origins of another feature of the solar system.