

Cy and Medusa

A Reading A-Z Level L Leveled Book
Word Count: 532

Connections

Writing

Think of a time you helped someone solve a problem. Write about what you did to help.

Social Studies and Art

Research to learn more about Medusa or the Cyclops. Design a poster about one of the mythical figures to share with your class.

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Focus Question

What problems do the main characters share, and how do they solve them?

Words to Know

direct
minotaur
miracle

monocle
shop class
visor

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Correlation

LEVEL L

Fountas & Pinnell	K
Reading Recovery	18
DRA	20



Cy walked down the hall, staring at the floor. He was the only creature at his new school with a single eye.

Whack! Cy bumped into Mark, the largest **minotaur** in the school.



"Sorry, I didn't see you," Cy said.

"Can't you see at all, One Eye?"
Mark asked.

Just then, Cy saw Medusa heading toward them. That gave him an idea. He'd been at school long enough to know about her powers.

“I actually see something really cool over there,” Cy said.

Mark turned to look, made eye contact with Medusa, and instantly turned to stone.

Then, without thinking, Cy met Medusa’s yellow eyes. He looked down at his hands in alarm. To his surprise, however, he was still just Cy.



“Ugh! Medusa turned someone to stone again,” a student groaned. A group dragged Mark to the nurse’s office. Medusa burst into tears and ran away.

Cy raced after her. Outside, he found Medusa with her face buried in her hands.

"Can I talk to you?" Cy asked.

"Go away if you don't want to be turned into a statue," Medusa said.

"You looked me in the eye, and I'm fine," Cy said. "Maybe it's my eye. I can't be turned to stone."



Medusa peeked at Cy, and her face lit up.

"It's a **miracle**! You don't know what it's like to not be able to look at anybody," she said.

"I don't look at people anyway,"
Cy said. "Everyone stares at my
one eye."

"Imagine having a head full of
snakes," Medusa said.

"I guess," Cy said. "The truth is, I
don't see well, but I don't want to
wear my **monocle**."



Cy pulled a round glass piece on a
chain from his pocket. "How silly is
this?" he said. "It makes me stand
out even more."

"Can I see that for a second?"
Medusa asked.

"Sure," Cy said as he gave her
the monocle. "I won't be using
it anyway."

The school bell rang, and Medusa patted Cy on his shoulder.

“I like your one eye,” Medusa said.

“We need to get to **shop class** before we’re late.”

Cy smiled. “Hey, shop class . . .” he said. “That gives me an idea.”



For the next two weeks in shop class, Cy and Medusa sat together. Cy worked on building a **visor** that would keep Medusa from turning people to stone.

Finally, Cy handed the visor to Medusa, and she slipped it on. Inside, mirrors allowed her to look at people without making **direct** eye contact with anybody.



Medusa sneaked toward another table. The students looked at her, and no one turned to stone.

“You did it!” Medusa yelled.

She rushed back to the table and pulled something from a drawer. “I’ve been working on your monocle,” she said.



She handed the monocle to Cy. Medusa had wrapped the glass with wire and attached it to a leather strap carved with lightning bolts.

“Wow,” Cy said, slipping it over his head. “Thanks! Now *this* I’d actually like to wear.”

“No problem,” Medusa said. “Thank you for helping me.”

When the bell rang, Medusa and Cy headed out together. For the first time, neither of them stared at the ground.



Glossary

- direct** (*adj.*) going straight from one place to another, without stopping or changing course (p. 12)
- minotaur** (*n.*) a make-believe creature that is half man and half bull (p. 3)
- miracle** (*n.*) a very unusual event, especially one that cannot be explained by nature or science (p. 8)
- monocle** (*n.*) a single round eyeglass worn over one eye (p. 9)
- shop class** (*n.*) a class where students learn practical skills, in fields such as carpentry, engineering, or electronics (p. 11)
- visor** (*n.*) a protective shield for the eyes, often attached to a helmet or hat (p. 12)