



# Heracles

Stage 5

Unit Focus: Ancient Greek  
Myths

Text Focus: Narrative



## Today we are learning to...



identify new words when you read and discuss their meaning in context



explain and justify using evidence from the text



retrieve simple facts

# Task 1: Read 'Heracles' in pairs

*While you are reading, you may wish to:*

- Underline and identify any new, unknown words
- Underline any main characters and events

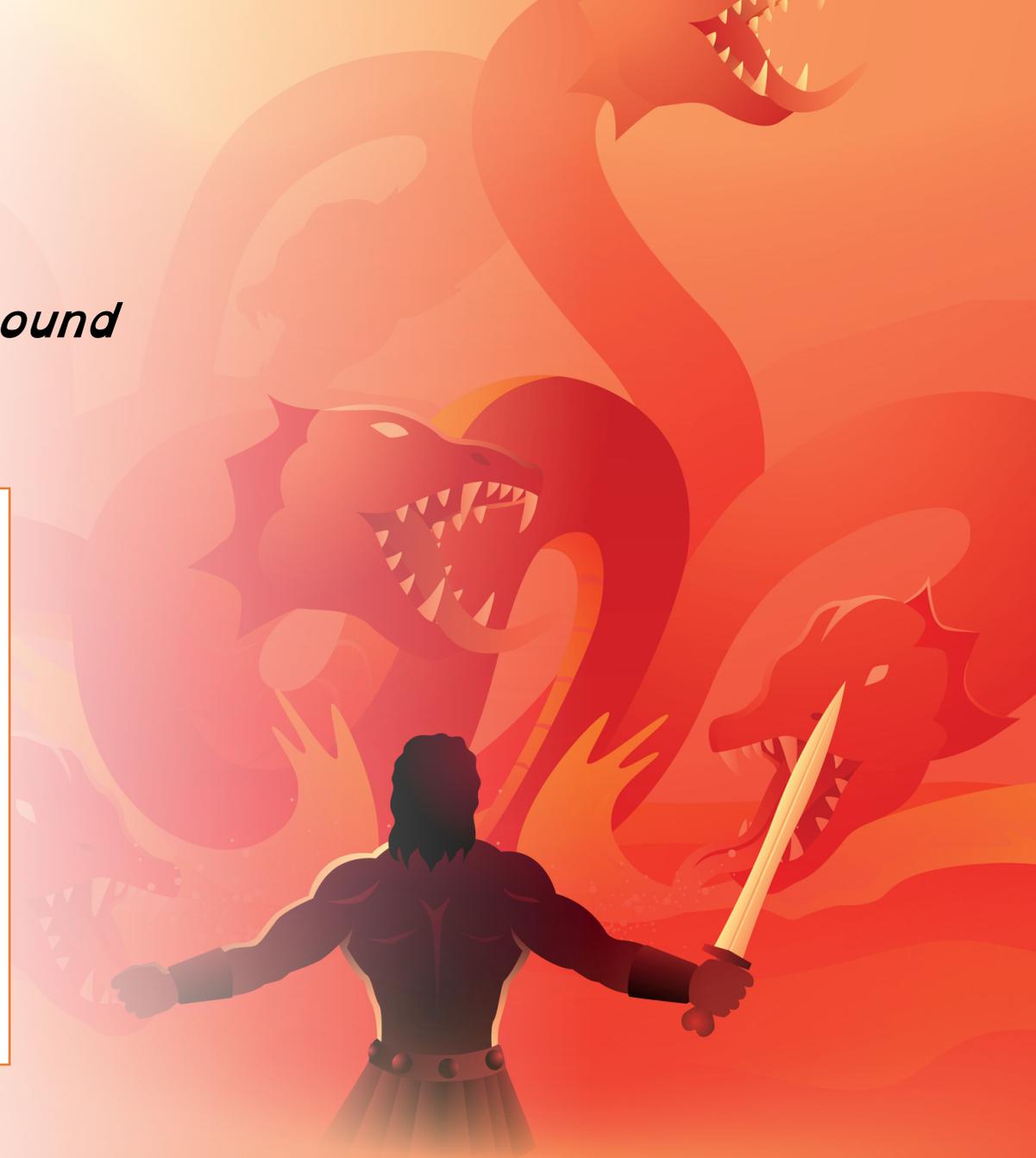
***Challenge:***

Describe King Eurystheus in one word and explain your word choice.

**Task 1: Read 'Heracles' as a class**

*Read this extract from the text. Think carefully about how to make this ending sound ominous!*

From that point on, Heracles grew used to receiving the King's increasingly dangerous demands through his herald. He never did see the king again, but he knew that his labours were only just beginning.





# Task 2: Vocabulary Check

*Complete this table to show your understanding of these words*

| Word         | Have you heard the word before? | What do you think it means? | Synonyms | Antonyms |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| terrorised   |                                 |                             |          |          |
| impenetrable |                                 |                             |          |          |
| retreat      |                                 |                             |          |          |



## Task 3: Quick-fire retrieval

*With a partner, write the answers to these!*

- 1) Who orders that Heracles should serve the king for twelve years?
- 2) Who offers to help Heracles?
- 3) What is Heracles's first labour?
- 4) Why is killing the lion so difficult?



# Task 3: Quick-fire retrieval ANSWERS

*With a partner, write the answers to these!*

- 1) Who orders that Heracles should serve the king for twelve years? *Apollo*
- 2) Who offers to help Heracles? *Athena and Hermes*
- 3) What is Heracles's first labour? *to kill a lion terrorising the people of Nemea*
- 4) Why is killing the lion so difficult? *its skin is impenetrable*



## Task 4: Vocabulary Synonyms

For many years, a grotesque lion had terrorised the area...

What does the word *grotesque* mean in this sentence?  
Tick one.

|           | Tick one |
|-----------|----------|
| strong    |          |
| handsome  |          |
| monstrous | ✓        |
| violent   |          |



## Task 4: Vocabulary Synonyms

Heracles's first task was to bring King Eurystheus the *hide* of the Nemean lion.

What does the word *hide* mean in this sentence?  
Tick one.

|         | Tick one |
|---------|----------|
| reveal  |          |
| pelt    | ✓        |
| conceal |          |
| claws   |          |



## Task 4: Vocabulary Synonyms

Many hunters had tried to kill it, but its skin was *impenetrable*.

What does the word *impenetrable* mean in this sentence?

Tick one.

|               | Tick one                            |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| impassable    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| soft          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| close         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| insubstantial | <input type="checkbox"/>            |



# Task 5: True or false? ANSWERS

*Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.*

| STATEMENT                                                              | TRUE | FALSE |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
| Heracles's first task was to bring Hermes the hide of the Nemean lion. |      | ✓     |
| The king ordered Heracles to complete twelve Labours.                  | ✓    |       |
| Heracles choked the grotesque lion to death.                           | ✓    |       |
| King Eurystheus was terrified of Heracles.                             | ✓    |       |



# Task 6: Inference ANSWERS

*Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is a fact or an opinion.*

| STATEMENT                                                                  | FACT | OPINION |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------|
| Heracles was wrong to kill the lion.                                       |      | ✓       |
| Heracles shouldn't be punished as it is Hera's fault for sending him mad.  |      | ✓       |
| Heracles agreed with Molorchus that they would sacrifice the lion to Zeus. | ✓    |         |



## Task 7: Justify ideas

Complete these sentences using ideas from the text and your own opinions!

*Heracles is brave because...*

*Heracles is brave, but...*

*Heracles is brave, so...*





# You have reached the end of the lesson!

Describe Heracles in one word.

Summarise the story in six sentences.

Compare this story with the modern version in the Stage 4 section! How are they similar and different?

