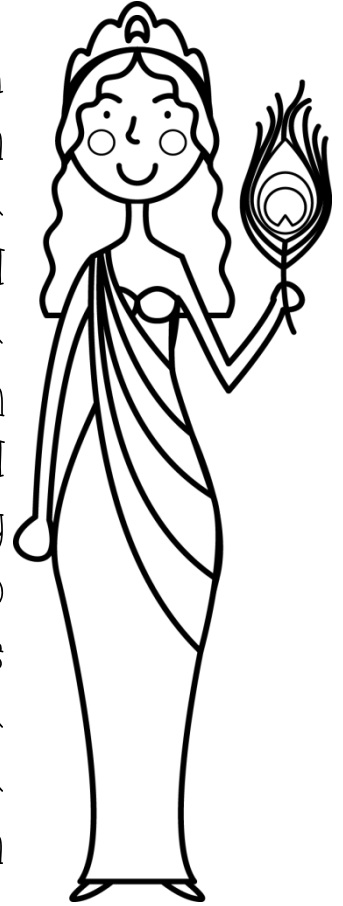


Hercules and Cerberus

A long, long time ago, Hercules was born a mortal demi-god. The goddess Hera hated him ever since his birth. She always tried to make trouble for Hercules. On one **occasion**, she caused him to lose his mind and think his family were his greatest enemies. Hera's plan **succeeded**. In a state of **temporary insanity**, Hercules killed his family. When he awoke, he was horrified by what he'd done. He prayed to the god Apollo for help and forgiveness. Apollo told him as punishment for his crimes, he had to serve Eurystheus, the king of Tiryns for 12 years. The king hated Hercules so **demande**d he perform twelve near impossible Labors (or missions).



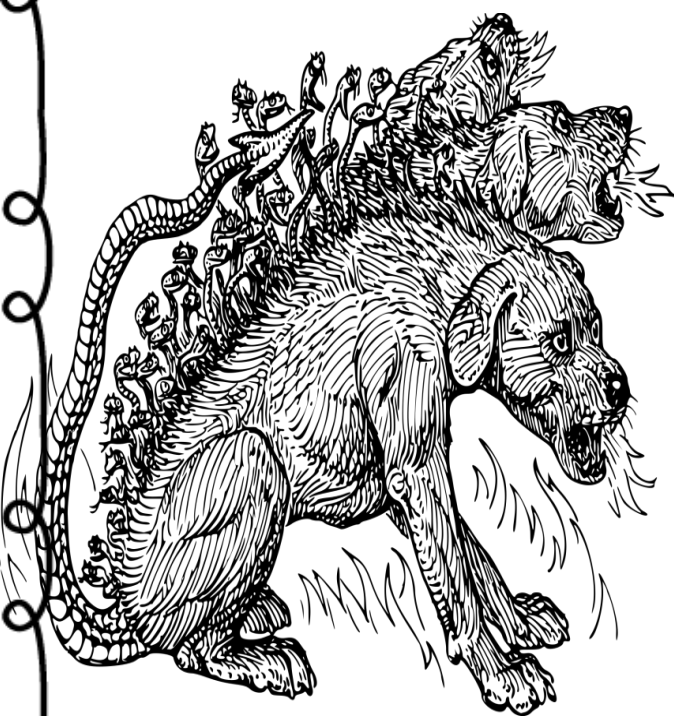
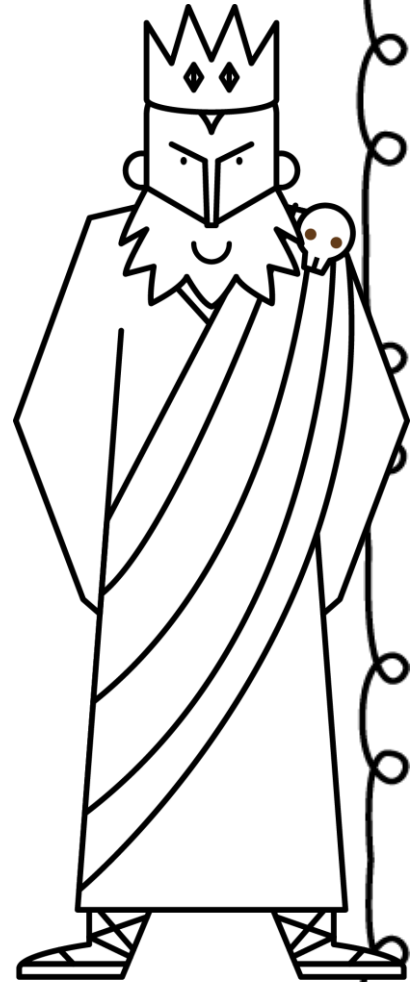
Hercules was lucky enough to have the help of Hermes and Athena, who always helped him when he was in need. Hercules achieved the first 11 Labors and was **considered** Greece's greatest hero but he still had one more mission to go!

The twelfth Labor was to capture Cerberus, a 3 headed dog with a mane of snakes, and a dragon for a tail. Cerberus **guarded** the entrance to the **underworld**, allowing **souls** to enter but none to leave (and return to the land of the living). Cerberus was also a pet of the god Hades. Hades was the god of the underworld.

In order for Hercules to capture Cerberus, he would have to **descend** into the underworld and ask Hades' permission to capture Cerberus. Hades loved the bad tempered dog. Hercules asked Hades for permission,

Hades responded, *"You may try to capture Cerberus but you are not to use weapons or hurt my poor pet."*

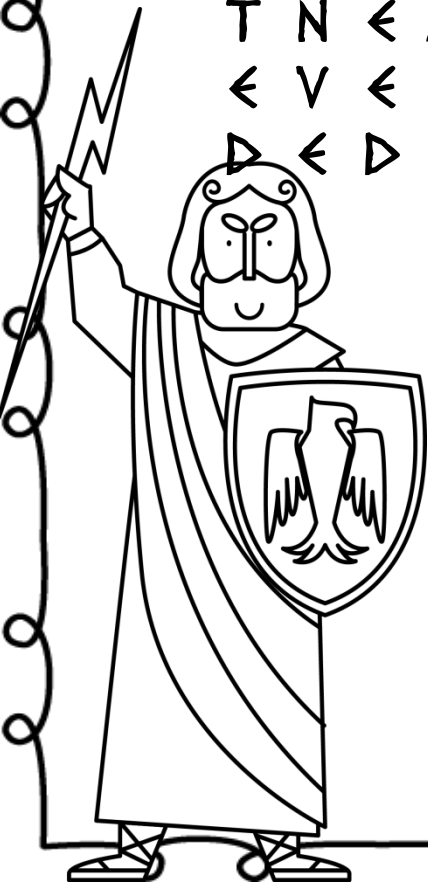
Hercules agreed. Hercules went to capture the **monstrous** creature. He used his bare hands to grip Cerberus' throat and wrested him to the ground. Eventually he overpowered the **ferocious** beast by strangling it **unconscious**. Carefully, Hercules carried Cerberus to King Eurytheus.



As Hercules approached the King, Cerberus began to wake. The King was terrified and begged Hercules to take the monstrous beast back to the underworld. He explained that if he did, Hercules would be free. Hercules took Cerberus back to Hades. Hercules was considered a hero. Zeus, his father, granted him immortality for his bravery.

Hercules and Cerberus

G U A R D E D K D I T Y U H A
 H N M X J V A E M S T H N E P
 E A I O L F D P N I M S D R P
 R A D R N E O S L Y A S E A R
 < B A E E S R A H S T E R Z O
 U B Y < S W T T U N H N W D A
 L U < I U R O R A M E E O E <
 E U B Y O L E P O R N V R R H
 S L A M O B O L R U A I L E E
 E H M G R L B T W E S G D D D
 G I Y E L G R E E K V R M I Q
 U N < O N S < I O U S O X S I
 T N E M H S I N U P < F Q N D
 E V E N T U A L L Y U O H O V
 D E D N E < S E D F O R G < Q



APOLLO

APPROACHED

ATHENA

CERBERUS

CONSIDERED

DESCENDED

DOG

EVENTUALLY

FORGIVENESS

GREEK

GUARDED

HADES

HERA

HERCULES

IMMORTALITY

IMPOSSIBLE

MONSTROUS

MORTAL

MYHTOLOGY

OVERPOWERING

PUNISHMENT

SUCCEDED

UNCONSCIOUS

UNDERWORLD

Comprehension



Literal– *The author said it in the text.*

What did Apollo tell Hercules he must do to be forgiven for his crimes? _____

What did Cerberus look like? _____

Inferential– *The author meant it*

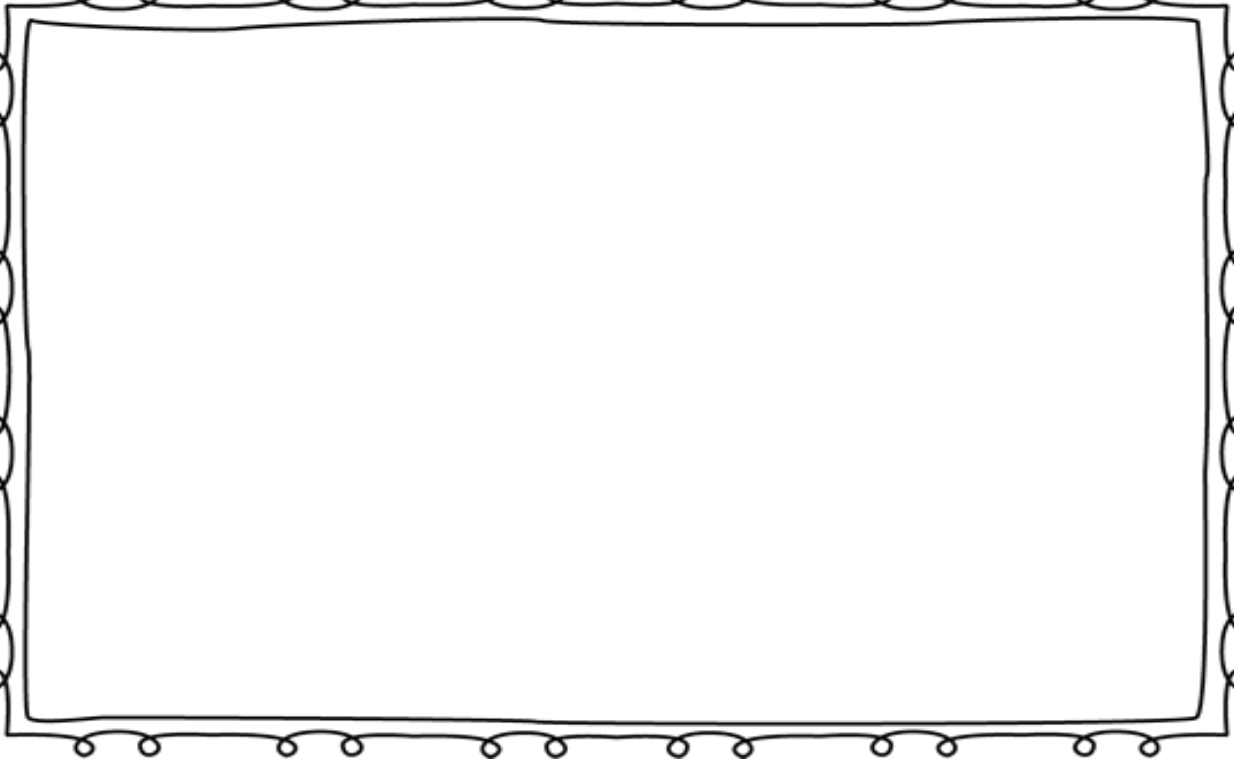
Why do you think Hera hated Hercules? _____

Why do you think Hades loved and cared for Cerberus?

Comprehension

Applied: *On your own*

You are asked to complete a mission. You need to capture a lion from the zoo. Draw a plan for how you could achieve this.



Do you think the punishment was fair for Hercules killing his family? Why or why not?
