



Read each myth or legend carefully. Use details from the passage to answer the questions in complete sentences.

Bellerophon and the Chimera



Long ago, in the sun-drenched lands of ancient Greece, a time when gods and goddesses often intervened in mortal affairs, heroes were called upon to face incredible dangers. It was an era filled with mythical beasts and legendary quests, where courage was tested and wits were sharpened.

Among the most valiant of these heroes was Bellerophon, a prince known for his bravery and skill. He found himself in the court of King Iobates of Lycia. Unbeknownst to Bellerophon, King Iobates had been tricked by false accusations and secretly wished him dead. Rather than directly harming a guest, the king devised a cunning plan: he commanded Bellerophon to undertake a task no one had ever survived—to slay the monstrous Chimera. This terrifying creature was a hybrid beast, with the fierce head of a lion, the shaggy body of a goat, and the slithering tail of a serpent. It breathed scorching fire, spreading terror and destruction throughout the Lycian countryside, burning crops and homes.



Bellerophon understood the immense peril. He knew that facing such a formidable, fire-breathing foe on the ground was impossible. To succeed, he needed a unique advantage. He sought guidance from the wise seer Polydeuces, who advised him to tame the magnificent winged horse, Pegasus. After much effort and a blessing from Athena, Bellerophon finally managed to bridle the divine steed, gaining the power of flight.



Mounted on the swift Pegasus, Bellerophon soared high above the land, searching for the Chimera's hidden lair. When he found the beast, it roared with fury, spewing torrents of



flame. But Bellerophon, agile on Pegasus, swooped and dodged, staying out of reach. He then conceived a clever plan: he fastened a large lump of lead to the tip of his spear. As he flew past the open-mouthed Chimera, he thrust the lead-tipped spear deep into its throat. The Chimera's own scorching breath melted the lead, which then flowed down its windpipe, suffocating the monster from within.

With the Chimera vanquished, Bellerophon returned to King Iobates, having accomplished the impossible. His victory proved his extraordinary courage, his clever thinking, and his heroic spirit. This myth, cherished by the ancient Greeks, teaches us that even the most daunting challenges can be overcome not just with strength, but with intelligence and the right allies.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who is the main character in this myth, and what is their role?

- (A) Bellerophon, a brave prince sent to defeat a monster.
- (B) King Iobates, a wise king who helped Bellerophon find Pegasus.
- (C) Pegasus, a magical horse that fought the Chimera on its own.
- (D) Polydeuces, a seer who taught Bellerophon how to breathe fire.

(2) In this myth, Bellerophon had to defeat the Chimera in order to

_____.

— continue writing on the lines below

(3) What does the word 'vanquished' mean as it is used in the story?

- (A) defeated
- (B) angered
- (C) captured
- (D) befriended



(4) Why did Bellerophon fasten a lead lump to his spear? What does this tell us about his approach to challenges?

(5) What do you think this myth was trying to explain or teach? How does its message connect to something in real life today?

