

Heroes Every Child Should Know: Perseus

Hamilton Wright Mabie (Perseus adapted from Charles Kingsley)

How does the prophecy turn fear into the force that begins the conflict?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Perseus - opening prophecy and Acrisius's response

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	Once upon a time there were two princes who were twins.
END	And at that Acrisius was very much afraid; but he did not mend his ways.
PASSAGE ID	sec-perseus-01

THE MOVE

Trace how a prediction changes a character's choices before the predicted event occurs

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The prophecy does not merely forecast danger. It immediately changes Acrisius's motives: fear replaces ordinary judgment, yet the narrator stresses that he does not reform. The opening therefore establishes a pattern in which attempts to escape a predicted future may help create the conflict around it.

MARK

Underline the prophecy. Circle words describing Acrisius before and after he hears it. Box the narrator's judgment about whether he changes. Draw an arrow from the prediction to the fear it creates.

NOTICE

- What problem already exists before the prophecy appears?
- What exactly does the prophecy say will happen and through whom?

- Why is the final comment about Acrisius not mending his ways important?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does the prophecy turn fear into the force that begins the conflict? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

The prophecy turns fear into the engine of the plot because Acrisius responds to a future possibility as if it were an immediate threat. Instead of repairing the family conflict that preceded the prophecy, he becomes afraid while remaining morally unchanged, setting up choices meant to prevent the prediction.

EVIDENCE

Use the prophecy itself and the narrator's final comment about Acrisius's response.

WATCH FOR

Do not treat the prophecy as the cause of every conflict. The family is already divided; the prophecy redirects and intensifies that conflict through fear.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 6 · LESSON 279

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WORK	Heroes Every Child Should Know: Perseus
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Perseus - opening prophecy and Acrisius's response
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Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

Once upon a time there were two princes who were twins.

END

And at that Acrisius was very much afraid; but he did not mend his ways.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** Underline the prophecy. Circle words describing Acrisius before and after he hears it. Box the narrator's judgment about whether he changes. Draw an arrow from the prediction to the fear it creates.
2. **NOTICE** What problem already exists before the prophecy appears? What exactly does the prophecy say will happen and through whom? Why is the final comment about Acrisius not mending his ways important?
3. **THINK** Answer provisionally: How does the prophecy turn fear into the force that begins the conflict?
4. **WRITE** Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. **CLOSE** Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.