Cy and Medusa
A Reading A–Z Level O Leveled Book
Word Count: 771

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

directly
minotaur
miracle
monocle
shop class
visor

Correlation

LEVEL O

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correlation Type</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fountas &amp; Pinnell</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Recovery</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRA</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cy and Medusa
Level O Leveled Book
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Cy trudged down the hall of his new school, his one large eye staring at the floor. Giants, centaurs, and flying horses passed him, but Cy was the only creature with a single eye.

“I’m never going to fit in here,” Cy mumbled under his breath.

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

“Watch where you’re going, One Eye!” Mark said.

“Sorry, I didn’t see you,” Cy said.

“Can’t you see with one eye?” Mark asked.

As if on cue, Cy spotted 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.

“What do you mean?” Mark asked as he turned to look. He peered down the hall, made eye contact with Medusa, and instantly turned to stone.

Then, without thinking, Cy met Medusa’s yellow eyes. His skin tingled, and he looked down at his hands in dismay. To his surprise, however, he was still just Cy.

“Ugh! Medusa turned someone to stone again,” a student groaned. “Let’s drag him to the nurse’s office.”

A group gathered around and began to haul Mark off. Medusa, humiliated, burst into tears and ran away.

Cy raced after Medusa. He had looked directly at her and hadn’t turned to stone.

Outside, Cy found Medusa sitting at a picnic table with her face buried in her hands.
“Can I talk to you?” Cy asked.

Medusa turned her head from Cy. “Go away if you don’t want to be turned into a statue,” she murmured.

“You looked me in the eye, and I’m fine,” Cy said.

“That’s not possible—just ask the nurse. She’s had to turn fourteen kids back to normal this year,” Medusa said.

“Trust me,” Cy said. “Maybe it’s because I only have one eye. I can’t be turned to stone.”

Medusa slowly lowered her hands and peeked at Cy’s one eye. 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. “The kids all stare at me, and Mark and the minotaurs already call me ‘One Eye.’”

“Imagine having a head full of snakes,” Medusa said. “Every day is a bad hair day for me.”

“I guess,” Cy said, then paused for a moment. “The truth is, I don’t see well, and I’m too embarrassed to wear my monocle. It’s bad enough to only have one eye.”

Cy pulled a round glass piece on a long gold chain from his pocket. “How silly is this?” he said.

Medusa giggled when she saw Cy peering through his monocle.

“When I wear this thing, it makes me stand out even more,” Cy said.

“Can I see that for a second?” Medusa asked.

“Sure,” Cy said as he handed over 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 our three eyes over 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 at a back table together. Cy took measurements of Medusa’s head. He used all the shop tools to build a visor that would keep her from turning people to stone. Finally, Cy polished the completed visor and handed it to Medusa.

“Try it out,” he said.
Medusa slipped on the visor. Inside, a system of mirrors allowed her to look at people without making direct eye contact with anybody.

Medusa cautiously approached the table next to them. The students peeked up at her, and no one turned to stone.

“This is amazing!” Medusa yelled. She walked around the room staring each student in the face.

“You did it, Cy!” Medusa said with a beaming smile. She rushed back to her work station and pulled Cy’s monocle from a drawer. “I hope you don’t mind, but I’ve been working on your monocle. It’s sort of like a cool goggle now.”

She handed Cy the goggle. Medusa had wrapped the monocle with wire and attached it to a leather strap engraved 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 out.”

The bell rang, and Medusa and Cy headed out with their special new eyewear. For the first time, neither of them stared at the ground.

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**Glossary**

- **directly (adv.)** with nothing in between (p. 6)
- **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)