

I Answer the following questions with reference to the context

1. Despite the abundance of pretty faces around her, Medusa was considered the epitome of beauty and grace.

a. Why has the word 'despite' been used in this sentence?

Ans. The word 'despite' has been used to indicate that even though there were many pretty faces around Medusa, she was still considered the epitome of beauty and grace. It emphasizes that Medusa's beauty surpassed that of others.

b. Find the word in the extract that means the same as 'a person or thing that is a perfect example of a quality or type'.

Ans. epitome

c. Why has this sentence been said?

Ans. This sentence has been said to highlight Medusa's exceptional beauty and to emphasize that even in a city filled with beauties

maidens, Medusa stood out as the embodiment of beauty and grace.

Q. And so, day after day, Medusa continued to prattle on about her beauty to anyone who would listen, until one fateful day when she visited the Parthenon with her friends.

Q. Why has the day been called 'fateful'?

Ans. This day has been called 'fateful' because it marks a significant event in Medusa's life. It is the day when she visits the Parthenon and encounters Athena, leading to her transformation into a monster.

b. What do you think the word 'prattle' means according to this sentence?

Ans. The word 'prattle' means to talk foolishly or at length about trivial matters. In this sentence, it implies that Medusa continued to boast and talk excessively about her beauty to anyone who would listen.

c. Give one way in which Medusa found that the Parthenon was not superb.

Ans. One way in which Medusa found the Parthenon not superb was her comment about Athena's thick eyebrows, suggesting that the painting would be more wonderful if it depicted someone as delicate as her.

3. 'Vain and foolish child', Athena's voice boomed through the temple, 'you dare to compare your beauty to mine? Even if you were more beautiful than I, which I doubt, your pride has blinded you to the true value of life.'

a. Why does Athena call Medusa 'vain and foolish child'?

Ans. Athena calls Medusa 'vain and foolish child' to express her disapproval of Medusa's pride and obsession with her own beauty. It highlights Medusa's foolishness and lack of wisdom.

b. Does Athena agree that Medusa is more beautiful than her?

Ans. Athena does not agree that Medusa is more beautiful than her. She doubts that Medusa could ever be more beautiful

than her, even if it were true.

Q. Give a sentence that proves the title of the story from this extract

Ans. The sentence that proves the title of the story is when Athena says, 'Your pride has brought this upon you and it is a lesson you must learn.' This suggests that Medusa's excessive pride is the cause of her downfall.

II Answer the following questions

Q1. Describe any one way in which Medusa seemed fascinated with herself.

Ans. Medusa seemed fascinated with herself by boasting about her beauty everyday and exaggerating her claims.

Q2. What did Medusa do every morning and evening?

Ans. Every morning and evening, Medusa would spend hours gazing at her own reflection. She would admire herself in her hand mirror for a full hour while brushing her hair in the morning and stand before

her darkened window for another hour admiring her beauty before bed.

3. When Medusa's friend praises the beauty of the Parthenon, Medusa feels it is nothing great. Why do you think she felt so?

Ans. Medusa felt the Parthenon was nothing great because her pride and vanity blinded her to appreciating the beauty and significance of the temple. She believed that her own beauty surpassed everything else, including the grandeur of the Parthenon.

4. Why did the worshippers at the temple run away?

Ans. The worshippers at the temple ran away because they overheard Medusa comparing herself to Athena and declaring that she was more beautiful than the goddess. They feared the wrath of Athena, who was worshipped in the temple.

Q5. Compare and contrast the physical features of Athena and Medusa as seen by Medusa.

Ans. According to Medusa, Athena had thick eyebrows, while Medusa believed she possessed delicate beauty. Medusa compared

and contrast herself to Athena. Seeing her own physical features as superior and more fitting for the sculptor's artwork.

III

Answer in Detail

Q1

Describe what happened at the Parthenon.

Ans:

At the Parthenon, Medusa remained unaffected by the grandeur of the temple. She compared herself to Athena, the goddess worshipped within the temple and believed she would have made a more fitting subject for the sculptor than Athena. She also commented on the artwork, suggesting that it would be more wonderful if it depicted someone as delicate as her.

Month: August

Amal (Rabindranath Tagore)

I. Answer the following questions with reference to the context.

1. 'What a state I am in! Before he came, nothing mattered.'

a. Who is the speaker in the above line?
Ans: Madhav is the speaker

b. 'What a state I am in! What does the speaker mean by this?'

Ans: He is 'in a state' because something significant has happened or changed after the arrival of someone.

c. Who is he?
Ans: He is Amal.

2. 'What a boy! Why call out then? Ugh! What a waste of time'

a. Who is the speaker in the above line?
Ans: The Dairyman is the speaker.

b. Why has the boy called out to the speaker?
Ans: The boy has called out to the Dairyman to strike a conversation with him and get rid of loneliness and homesickness.

c. Why does the speaker feel that time has been wasted?

Ans: The Dairyman feels time has been wasted because the boy called out to him but didn't have money to buy the curd.

3. 'I see you don't wish to stop: I don't care to stay on here either.'

a. Who is 'you' in the above line?

Ans: 'You'

b. Why do you think the listener does not want to stop?

Ans: The listener (Sudha) does not want to stop because she is in a hurry to collect flowers.

c. Why does the speaker not wish to stay on here?

Ans: The speaker (Amal) does not wish to stay on here (indoors) because he longs to see the outside world. It's because

Q11: Answer the following questions

Q12: What does Amal want to do at the courtyard?
Ans: Amal wants to be near the squirrel, enjoying the outside world, at the courtyard.

Q13: What according to Amal, is the purpose of the hills?

Ans: According to Amal, the purpose of hills is to raise their hands to the sky, symbolizing their majestic presence and beauty.

Q14: What does the dairyman say to Amal when he expresses his wish to sell curds?

Ans: The dairyman advises Amal to read books and become a learned person instead of selling curds door to door.

Q15: Whose is the post office and what happens there?

Ans: The post office belongs to the king and in the Post office, letters and messages are received and delivered.

Q16: What request does Amal have for Sudha? Does she accept the request? Explain.

Ans: Amal asks for a flower from Sudha for free, but she refuses. Sudha tells Amal that he would have to pay for the flower.

Q6. What does Sudha say she will do all day if she is free?

Ans. Sudha said that she would have great time with her doll Beraay the bride and Meri the Pussycat.