Punishment To Fit the Crime

After their deaths, the Danaides were sentenced to carry water in a sieve to a bath where they could wash away their sins. Consider the following scenarios and then formulate answers.

1. It's possible that one of the Underworld judges could have been partial to Medusa. What appropriate punishment could he have devised for her slayer, Perseus, after his death?

2. Perhaps the ghost of the sea monster who had been promised that he could eat Andromeda for lunch might have asked Poseidon for justice. Poseidon, then, might have devised a way to punish Perseus for thwarting his plans, much as Zeus punished Prometheus for stealing fire. What punishment would fit this crime?

3. Perseus accidentally caused the death of three people: King Cepheus, Queen Cassiopeia, and Acrisius. If, like Hercules, Perseus had gone to an oracle to find out how to atone for these unintentional killings, he would have been told what he needed to do. What might the oracle have said?

VANITY PLATES OF THE MONSTERS

If the monsters of mythology had automobiles, they might have had vanity license plates as well. Look at each of the following examples, and see if you can determine the monster or monster group which might have had the following vanity plates.

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

7. 

8. 

9. 

10. 

TEACHER'S KEY
VANITY PLATES OF THE MONSTERS

1. HI-FLI = High Fly
   Pegasus - He was a flying horse.

2. 1-I-4-3 = One Eye For Three
   Grey Women (Graeae) - The three sisters shared one eye.

3. 3SING = Three Sing
   Sirens - These three sisters lured sailors onto rocks with their songs.

4. ONE-I = One Eye
   Cyclopes / Polyphemus - These were one-eyed giants.

5. U2-STN = You To Stone
   Gorgon /Medusa - She was so ugly she turned men into stone.

6. BODZ 3 = Bodies Three
   Geryon - He had one head and three bodies.

7. H2O-9 = H_2O (Water) Nine
   Hydra - This was a nine-headed water monster.

8. IZRME = Eyes Are Me
   Argus - Hera's watchman with one hundred eyes.

9. BULISH = Bullish
   Minotaur - The one-half man, one-half bull on Crete.

10. HDZ100 = Heads 100
    Typhon - The hundred-headed offspring of Gaea.

EXTENSION:

Making these tags is quite a bit of fun, and most young students are excellent in coming up with creative new combinations. Not only does such an activity inspire creative thought, but the finished student projects make excellent bulletin board displays.

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MONSTROUS MATH

1. Multiply the number of eyes on Argus times the number of bodies of Geryon. Then divide the product by the number of noses on Cerberus.

   ANSWER: _____

2. Pegasus was, indeed, a fast-flying horse. Once he was caught on ancient radar going 60 miles per hour. If it took Pegasus two and one-half hours to take Bellerophon to fight the Chimaera, how far was Bellerophon's home from the Chimaera's cave?

   ANSWER: _____

3. One day Ladon was counting the golden apples in the garden of the Hesperides. He noted that the total for this year was 87. Last year he had counted 76, and the year before that he had counted 92. Using these numbers as his guide, he was then able to calculate the average number of apples per year. What was this average?

   ANSWER: _____

4. When Hercules encountered the Lernaean Hydra, he had a problem indeed! Every time he cut off one of the monster's nine heads, two would grow back. Now Hercules wasn't the brightest of the ancient heroes, so he cut off six heads before he realized that he had a problem. How many heads did the Hydra have when Hercules finally stopped and thought?

   ANSWER: _____

5. When Perseus asked the Gray Sisters for directions, at first they were unwilling to tell him anything at all. However, once Perseus snatched away their common eye, they began to answer his questions, in metric measure. The sisters informed Perseus that the land of the Gorgons lay 1600 kilometers to the west. Perseus, not knowing the metric system, had to convert this distance into miles. How many miles is 1600 kilometers?

   ANSWER: _____

6. Pan, the Erymanthian Boar, and Chiron were all invited to the same birthday party on Mt. Olympus. As each one was dressing for the party, the following occurred:

   a. The creature planning to wear the green hat noticed that one of his four red shoes needed a shoelace.
   b. The creature who purchased new blue shoes for the party wished he could borrow the orange hat, but he couldn't.
   c. The creature who did wear the orange hat was able to borrow four purple shoes from the one with a green hat.
   d. Chiron hates the colors yellow and green and refuses to wear either one on his head.

   What color hat and what color shoes did each of the three creatures wear?

   ANSWER: Pan: _____

   Boar: _____

   Chiron: _____

TEACHER'S KEY
MONSTROUS MATH

1. ANSWER = 100
   100 eyes on Argus
   X 3 bodies of Geryon = 300
   300÷ 3 noses on Cerberus = 100

2. ANSWER = 150 miles
   60 miles/hour X 2.5 hours = 150 miles

3. ANSWER = 85 apples per year
   87 apples + 76 apples + 92 apples = 255 apples
   255 apples ÷ 3 years = 85 apples per year

4. ANSWER = 15 heads
   1 replacement head and 1 additional head per cut
   1 additional head per cut X 6 cuts = 6 additional heads
   + 9 original (and replacement) heads = 15 total heads

5. ANSWER = 992 miles
   0.62 miles/kilometer X 1600 kilometers = 992 miles

6. ANSWER =

CREATURE	HAT	SHOES
Pan	yellow	blue
Erymanthian Boar	green	red
Chiron	orange	purple

a. The creature planning to wear the green hat noticed that one of his four red shoes needed a shoelace. *(The creature wearing red shoes must be four-footed, thus not Pan. Likewise the green hat goes on a four-legged creature.*)

b. The creature who purchased new blue shoes for the party wished he could borrow the orange hat, but he couldn't. (*The creature with blue shoes cannot be the one wearing the orange hat.*)

c. The creature who did wear the orange hat was able to borrow four purple shoes from the one with a green hat. (*The creature wearing the orange hat must also be four-footed, thus not Pan. Also, this same creature has purple shoes.*)

d. Chiron hates the colors yellow and green and refuses to wear either one on his head. *(Chiron cannot be wearing either the green or yellow hat; therefore he will be wearing the orange hat, and the purple shoes. The other four-legged creature, the boar, will be dressed in the green and red combination. By default, Pan is dressed in blue and yellow.)*