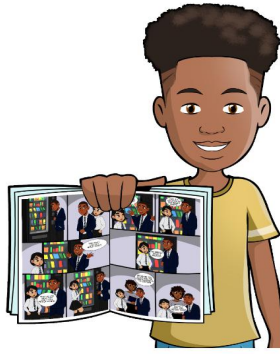


COMIC MANIA

THE ONLINE COMIC BOOK CREATOR



WRITING CHALLENGE

MEDUSA THE MAGNIFICENT

THERE ONCE LIVED A GIRL NAMED MEDUSA WHO HAD SNAKES FOR HAIR. IF ANYONE LOOKED DIRECTLY AT HER, THEY IMMEDIATELY TURNED INTO STONE. SO MEDUSA LIVED A VERY LONELY LIFE -- SHE COULDN'T RISK ANYONE BEING HURT BECAUSE THEY ACCIDENTALLY LOOKED AT HER.

MEDUSA LIVED IN A SMALL COTTAGE OUTSIDE A SMALL VILLAGE. SHE OFTEN WATCHED AS VILLAGERS TRAVELLED ALONG THE ROAD, WISHING SHE COULD JOIN THEM. BUT IT WAS JUST TOO DANGEROUS. SHE COULDN'T EVEN OPEN HER CURTAINS ALL THE WAY IN CASE THEY HAPPENED TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HER.

ONE DREARY WINTER DAY, MEDUSA STOOD BY HER WINDOW, PEEKING BETWEEN HER CURTAINS, AND WATCHED AN ELDERLY WOMAN WALK ALONG THE ROAD. SHE CARTED A WHEELBARROW OF APPLES TO SELL AT THE MARKET IN TOWN.

SUDDENLY, A MASKED MAN ATTACKED THE WOMAN FROM BEHIND, KNOCKING HER DOWN AND SNATCHING HER MONEY BAG. HE DASHED TOWARD THE WOODS BESIDE MEDUSA'S COTTAGE.

MEDUSA COULDN'T GO HELP THE WOMAN UP -- THE WOMAN MIGHT LOOK AT HER AND TURN TO STONE -- BUT SHE COULD RUN AFTER THE MASKED MAN. SHE DASHED OUT HER BACK DOOR AND TACKLED HIM FROM BEHIND.

"I WARN YOU, DO NOT TURN TO LOOK AT ME," SHE SAID IN HER STERNEST VOICE. "I AM SURE YOU HAVE HEARD STORIES OF THE WOMAN WHO TURNS MEN TO STONE. I AM SHE."

THE MAN GROANED.

"THE MONEY BAG," MEDUSA DEMANDED.

MEDUSA TOOK THE MONEY BAG AND RELEASED THE MAN, WHO SCAMPERS AWAY, TERRIFIED. SHE WENT BACK INSIDE HER COTTAGE, THEN TOSSED THE MONEY BAG OUTSIDE THROUGH HER CRACKED DOOR. THE OLD WOMAN, WHO WAS OKAY, RETRIEVED HER MONEY AND WENT ON HER WAY.

