

Pegasus the Flying Horse



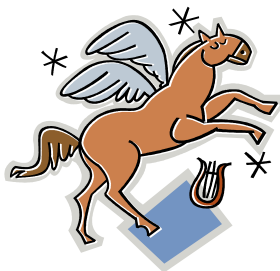
The King and all his people were afraid of the Chimera. It was a horrible monster with the body of a goat, the head of a lion and the tail of a snake. Many men had tried in vain to defeat the Chimera.

The King knew of a very brave man named Bellerophon. He decided to instruct him to destroy the Chimera. Bellerophon did not think that he could carry out the King's request, even he was frightened by the Chimera.

Bellerophon went to see a clever magician, as he knew that the only way he could kill the Chimera was with magic. The magician told him about Pegasus, the flying horse. He gave Bellerophon a magic bridle which he was to put over the head of Pegasus and then jump on his back. This way it was possible to fly over the monster and attack it from above.



Bellerophon took his spear and set off to look for Pegasus the flying horse. At first, no one seemed to have heard of Pegasus but then some small children came to Bellerophon and told him where he could find the horse. The children told how each night in the moonlight, Pegasus would land in the hills and drink from a spring.



Bellerophon waited patiently and then the majestic sight of Pegasus filled his eyes. He crept up and threw the magic bridle around the horse's neck. He jumped onto his back and found himself flying high above the hills.

It was not long before Bellerophon found the Chimera. When the monster saw Bellerophon, hot flames of anger shot out of its mouth. Bellerophon realised he needed help; his spear alone would not kill this beast. He found a lump of lead and he stuck it to the end of his spear. Together Bellerophon and Pegasus soared above the monster's lair and waited for him to appear.

The Chimera looked out and for the first time in its life, it knew real fear. Bellerophon dived towards the Chimera's open mouth and hurled his spear deep into the monster's mouth. The flames from the Chimera's mouth had melted the lead in his throat and poisoned him. The Chimera was dead at last!

Bellerophon and Pegasus returned triumphantly to tell the King and his people the good news.




Name: Date:



Read the story and then use the text to help you answer the following questions.

1. Describe the Chimera.
2. Why did the King choose Bellerophon to defeat the monster?
3. What did Bellerophon believe was the only way to kill the Chimera?
4. Who did Bellerophon ask for help?
5. What was special about the horse named Pegasus?
6. Where did the children say that Bellerophon would find Pegasus?
7. How do you think Bellerophon felt when he saw Pegasus for the first time?
8. Describe how Bellerophon defeated the Chimera.

Write down what you have learnt about each of the characters from the story. Think about their personalities and appearances. Use evidence from the text to support your opinions.

Character	I think I have learnt ...	Evidence
 King		
 Bellerophon		
 Chimera		