

Key vocabulary

quest

symptoms

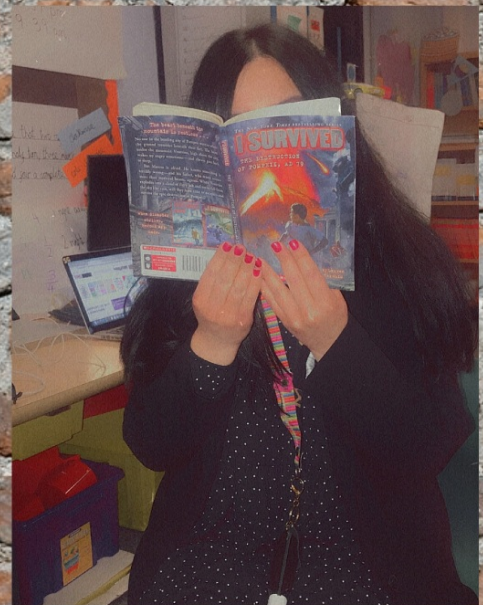
serpent

appeared

poisonous

Day 4

Chapter 9..... up to "Tata,"  
Marcus rasped. "What was that?"





The Hydra is a serpentine water monster in Greek and Roman mythology. It is usually shown with nine heads, between 7 and 25 metres long and around 6 to 13 metres tall.

# CHAPTER 9

Marcus waded silently through the dark and misty swamp, pushing aside sharp stalks of grass. And then, just ahead, there she was: the hideous serpent. Marcus stopped, frozen, as the beast rose up from the swamp. One by one, her nine horrific heads emerged from the mist, staring at him with glowing yellow eyes, leering with dripping, glistening fangs.



Who is this?



It was close to dawn when Marcus finally fell asleep.

And right away, he tumbled into a dream.

He was on a quest with Hercules to kill the monstrous Hydra, an enormous serpent with nine heads. Just one puff of her poisonous breath could kill.

And then —

*Huff.*

A burning, rotten stench rushed into Marcus's lungs.

The poisonous Hydra breath!

Marcus gagged and coughed.

His throat burned. His chest felt as if it would explode!

"Marcus! Marcus!" a voice called.

Hercules?

"Marcus!"

**Where does Marcus's dream stop?**

Marcus's eyes popped open, and the nightmare fell away. Tata was kneeling next to him, calling his name, shaking him awake.

It was all a dream!

Relief poured over him as he realized he wasn't in a swamp with the Hydra. He was on the mountain Vesuvius, with Tata.

But wait ... something was terribly wrong.

The air was still poisonous! The Hydra was still puffing gusts of her burning breath into Marcus's lungs.

But there was no Hydra.

That burning, poisonous smell was *here*.

"Marcus," Tata choked. "Get up! The air has gone bad!"

Tata helped pull Marcus to his feet and they staggered together toward Peg.

Marcus's **head pounded**. **Tears poured from** his stinging eyes. His lungs were on fire and he gasped for breath. He **felt dizzy**. They couldn't last much longer in this air!

Peg was rearing in panic, white foam spewing from her mouth.

Tata fumbled with her rope, finally untying it.

They all stumbled out of the grove of trees, where the air was miraculously clear.

Tata and Marcus collapsed to the ground, gulping the fresh air into their lungs.

"Tata," Marcus rasped. "What was that?"

**Grove: a small wood or forested area, usually with no undergrowth: a grove of pines.**



What symptoms do they experience due to the air?

What was terribly wrong?



## L.I: To be able to give /explain the meaning of a word in context

### Success Criteria:

I find the sentence and key word

I can read around the key word (before & after)

I think of a synonym for the word or I can use the text to help me make meaning

### Challenge

Why might Marcus dream of being on a quest with Hercules?  
How is this different to children today?

### Task

1. **What was on a quest with Hercules...**

What other word could be used instead of 'quest'?

What does quest mean? Refer back to the key vocabulary?

2. **Just one puff...**

What does this suggest about the power of the Hydra's breath?

3. Find the paragraph beginning '**Marcus waded...**

a) Find and copy a word that shows that Marcus can not move

b) Find and copy a word that means 'appeared.'

c) Find and copy a word that means 'snake.'

4. What symptoms do they feel because of the poisonous air? Find two.

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And right away, he tumbled into a dream.

He was on a quest with Hercules to kill the monstrous Hydra, an enormous serpent with nine heads. Just one puff of her poisonous breath could kill.

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## Answers

1. *He was on a quest with Hercules....*

What other word could be used instead of 'quest?' **search/hunt**

2. *Just one puff...*

What does this suggest about the Hydra's breath?

**It is very powerful/deadly/dangerous**

**It only needs a small amount to kill/be effective/  
affect you**

3. Find the paragraph beginning '*Marcus waded...*

a) Find and copy a word that shows that Marcus can not move **frozen**

b) Find and copy a word that means 'appeared.' **emerged**

c) Find and copy a word that means 'snake.'

**serpent**

4. What symptoms do they feel because of the poisonous air? Find two.

**heads pounded/tears poured/felt  
dizzy**

