

Chapter 20



MIDAS—AND OTHERS

COMPREHENSION ACTIVITY

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What is Midas' wish? When the wish is granted by Bacchus, what difficulty does this present?
2. Why is Midas given ass's ears by Apollo?
3. Who is Chiron?
4. What are the special talents of Aesculapius? In what way does he take his talents too far, and so disturb the gods?
5. Who are the Danaïds? How do they avoid marriage?
6. What is the punishment that the Danaïds must endure in the underworld?
7. Scylla, as we recall from the *Odyssey* and the *Aeneid*, is a terrible water-monster, a great peril to all sailors who attempt to pass by her. How does she come to be in this awful state?
8. How is Erysichthon punished for cutting down the sacred oak of Ceres?
9. Erysichthon's daughter has the ability to change forms, like Proteus. How does she exploit this talent?
10. What is Pomona's art?

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WRITING ACTIVITIES

Writing Activity 2

A famous muffler company once produced gold-colored mufflers—hence their name, *Midas*. Invent a product that is inspired by a story or character in Greek or Roman mythology. Create advertising copy, a logo, a product or company name, and packaging that reflects the mythological origin of your product.