

The background features a light-colored wooden desk. On the left, a brown notebook is partially visible. On the right, a spiral-bound notebook with a yellow cover has a yellow sticky note that says "Home Read" in red. A yellow pencil with a red eraser and a sharpened lead tip lies horizontally at the bottom. On the left side of the desk, there are some yellow pencil shavings.

Comparative Literature 2





This icon indicates that the slide contains activities created in Flash. These activities are not editable.



This icon indicates that a slide contains audio.



This icon indicates coverage of the Language Standards.



This icon indicates that a worksheet accompanies the slide.



This icon indicates teacher's notes in the Notes field.



This icon indicates an opportunity for collaboration or group work.

College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading:

9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Write an imaginative paragraph about walking down the hallway in your school between classes. Remember to use imagery and descriptive language.

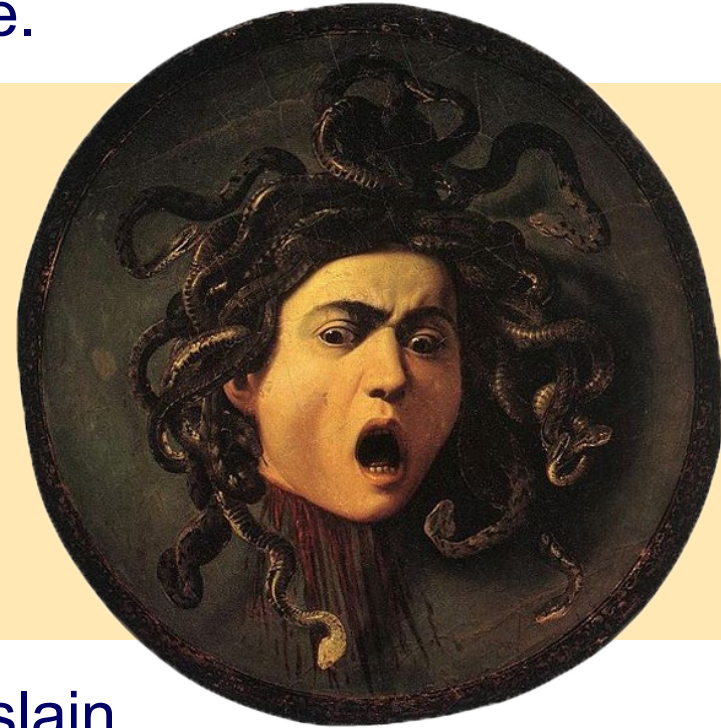
Compare your writing with a partner's. Although you were describing the same experience, chances are that you noticed different things and used different imagery.

All authors approach a theme or topic with their own perspective, formed by their personal attitudes and experiences. This leads them to interpret every subject differently.



In ancient Greek mythology, Medusa is a **Gorgon**, a monster with snakes for hair and a face so hideous that it turns onlookers to stone.

Centuries later, the Roman poet Ovid gave Medusa a different history. In his poem ***Metamorphoses***, he describes her as a beautiful woman who was raped by the god Neptune in the temple of Minerva. Minerva turned Medusa into a Gorgon as punishment.



In all versions of the story, Medusa is slain by the hero Perseus, who cuts off her head and uses it to turn his enemies to stone.



“Medusa” by Duffy



By writing the poem from Medusa's perspective, Duffy transforms the mythological monster into a protagonist with whom the audience can empathize.

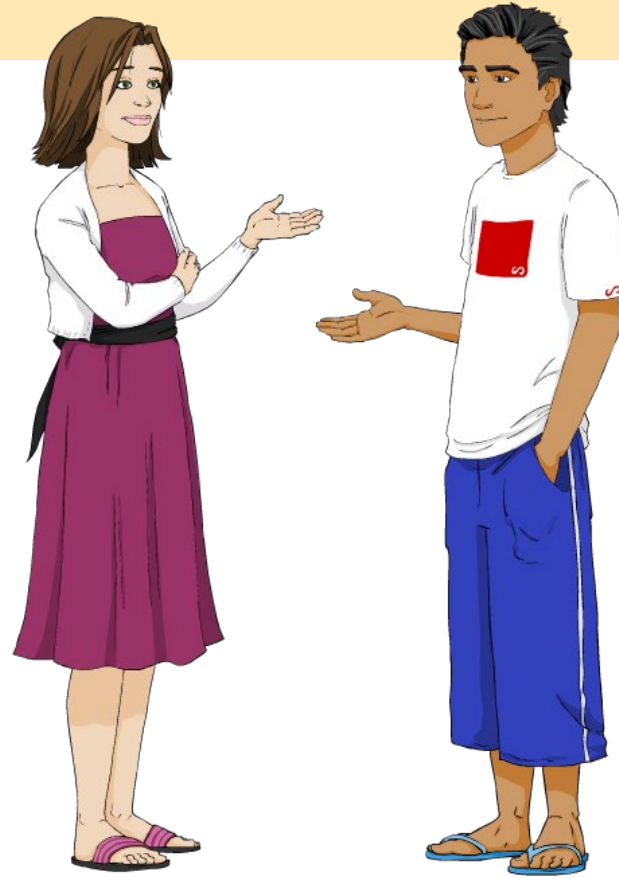
Ovid's version of the Medusa myth blames Medusa for her rape and celebrates the man that eventually kills her. In contrast, Duffy's poem addresses the guilt of the male characters in Medusa's story by implying that their abuses have made her into a monster.

Just as Ovid's portrayal of Medusa is appropriate to the social attitudes of his time, Duffy's feminist interpretation of the story is informed by the cultural backdrop of her time.



Authors from the same time period may have very different perspectives on the same topic. What factors might affect an author's perspective?

- gender
- age
- social class
- race/ethnicity
- political beliefs
- personal history



Can you think of any others?

“Who’s for the Game”



“Dulce et Decorum Est”





Why is it important to be aware of an author's perspective when analyzing a text?

Think about the two poems by Pope and Owen. How do the personal experiences of the authors affect their treatment of the subject? Which poem do you think offers a more accurate portrayal of World War I?

When analyzing an author's treatment of a topic or theme, it is also important to consider his or her purpose. While Pope's goal was to persuade young men to enlist in the army, Owen was attacking pro-war propaganda.

