

# Orpheus and Eurydice - Answers

Read the story carefully, then answer the following questions in as much detail as you can:

1. How do we know that Orpheus' music was so powerful? Find three reasons.

Orpheus' music could enchant all who heard it. It could turn bad men good and tame wild beasts.

2. What happened when Eurydice ran from Aristaeus?

As she ran from him she tripped over a log. A snake, which had been hiding under the log crawled out and bit her. The snake was venomous, and the bite immediately killed Eurydice.

3. Find three words in the story which express how Orpheus felt when Eurydice died.

Three words that describe how Orpheus feels are: distraught, inconsolable and grief.

4. Why did Hades allow Orpheus to try and get Eurydice back?

Because he was so moved by the poignant music Orpheus played.

5. Orpheus faced three obstacles on his journey out of the underworld. What were these obstacles? Which do you think was the most challenging and why?

The first obstacle was a huge wooden door chained shut. The next was a dark, dank room with Cerberus (Hades grotesque, three headed hound) guarding it. The final obstacle was "slick black hands and arms" formed from the inky waters of the river Styx attacking him. The second part of this question requires the students own opinion.

6. Use evidence from the text to draw and label a picture of Cerberus.

Student are asked to draw a picture of the "enormous three headed dog". They may have taken cues from its description as "Hades' grotesque hound" and "beastly dog" with monstrous paws.

7. How do we know that Orpheus was scared of Cerberus?  
Find three examples from the text.

Orpheus was described as terrified, and we are told his whole body trembled. There are also other phrases used like; Orpheus' heart pounded in his chest, "treading nervously over the monstrous paws" and his reaction to escaping; mopping hi wet brow. The students are asked for 3 examples.

8. What was Orpheus restrained by as he crossed the river? Use your imagination

and knowledge of other Greek myths to explain what you think these could be.

**Orpheus was restrained by slick black hands and arms formed from the murky waves of the river Styx.**

9. Why did Orpheus look back across the river for Eurydice?

**Orpheus looked back because he could no longer hear Eurydice's boat, and he was worried the hands had taken her.**

10. Was Orpheus' quest really so difficult? Explain your answer in detail.

**This question requires the students' opinion.**

### **Challenge:**

Can you write an additional obstacle for Orpheus into the story?