**Perseus and Medusa:** In a Nutshell

Brave, handsome hero sets off to slay the evil, hideous monster. We're guessing you've seen a story a like this before – and you loved it. It's pretty much one of most popular plots there is. For real, like every single comic book, comic book movie, action move, or other summer blockbuster follows the same basic story. If the hero is the right kind of cool and the villain is the right kind of wicked, people line up around the street to watch the battle go down.

And this isn't a new thing. The ancient Greeks loved heroic stories. Take the story of Perseus and Medusa, for example. Clever young hero hunts down a dreaded, snake-haired monster? Yes, please. Perseus may have been the first of Greece's monster slaying heroes, but he definitely wasn't the last. [Theseus](http://www.shmoop.com/theseus/) kills the minotaur, [Odysseus](http://www.shmoop.com/odyssey/odysseus.html) blinds a Cyclops, and [Heracles](http://www.shmoop.com/heracles-hercules/) wreaks havoc on a hydra, a hell-hound, and a giant boar among other monstrous foes.

People just can't get enough of watching ugly monsters get what's coming to them. We're guessing that's why the story of Perseus was used as the basis of both the [1981](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0082186/) and [2010](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0800320/) versions of *Clash of the Titans*, not to mention important chunks of the [*Percy Jackson*](http://www.shmoop.com/percy-jackson-lightning-thief/) series.

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