Answer the questions with a friend and write some ideas in the chart.

1.What makes a hero?

2.What does "Real-life Heroes" mean?

3.Who are your heroes?

4.Is there a hero within you?

Strength	Weakness
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

SUPERHEROES

What they always do	What they never do
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Talk and write.

• Could you tell someone is a real-life hero?

How: _____.

When: _____.

Why:_____.

Hercules and the Hydra

Hercules, an ancient hero known for his **strength, courage** and **wisdom**, was given twelve **labours** to perform by King Eurystheus of Tiryns.

The second labour of Hercules was to kill the Hydra which lived in the **murky waters** of the **swamps** near a place called Lerna.

The Hydra was a monstrous serpent. It had nine heads and one of the heads was immortal. Each breathed out **poisonous venom**. The venom spread like a **mist** throughout the land and made life impossible in its surroundings.

Hercules arrived in Lerna with his nephew Lolaus to destroy the Hydra. They saw the Hydra sleeping in its **den** in the swamps. They could not go too close to the mist that the Hydra was breathing out **lest** they died. They stood at the edge of the mist and Hercules **lured** the **coily** creature from the safety of its den by shooting **fiery arrows** at it.

Hercules knew he must not breathe in the Hydra's poisonous breath. So, he held his breath before the monster came out. Once the Hydra emerged, Hercules tried to **seize** it. It was not so easy. He pulled out his wooden club and started **smashing** the Hydra's head, but each time a head was smashed, another grew in its place!

Hercules now pulled out a **sword** and began to cut off the Hydra's heads. As soon as one head fell off, another one grew in its place!

Lolaus was watching the struggle and was looking for a way to help his uncle. He knew Hercules could not hold his breathe much longer. He lit a branch that was on the ground and rushed to help Hercules.

Each time Hercules cut off one of the Hydra's heads, Lolaus burnt the headless neck with the flaming branch so that a new head could not grow again. In this way, together they destroyed eight of the monster's heads forever.

Once they had removed and destroyed the eight mortal heads, Hercules cut off the Hydra's ninth immortal head. It fell to the ground but was still alive. It looked impossible to kill this head, so Hercules lifted a huge rock and buried the Hydra's ninth head beneath it.

Thus, Hercules succeeded in destroying the monstrous Lernean Hydra.



Read and answer the questions.

1. What was Hercules known for?

_____

_____.

2. How would you describe the place where the Hydra lived?

_____

_____.

3. What is the place near the murky waters of the swamps called?

_____

_____.

4. What was the Hydra´s poisonous weapon?

_____

_____.

5. Why was it difficult to destroy the Hydra?

_____

_____.

6. What did Lolaus do to stop the heads from growing again?

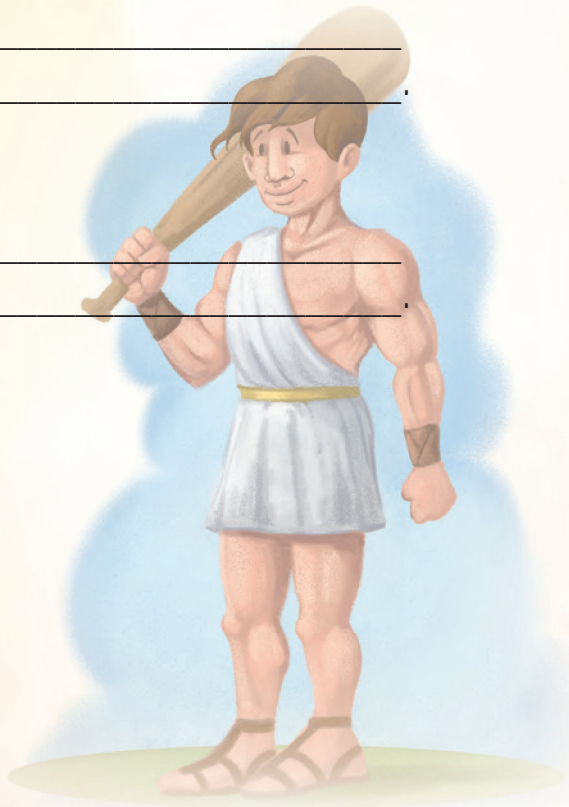
_____

_____.

7. What did Hercules do to the immortal head?

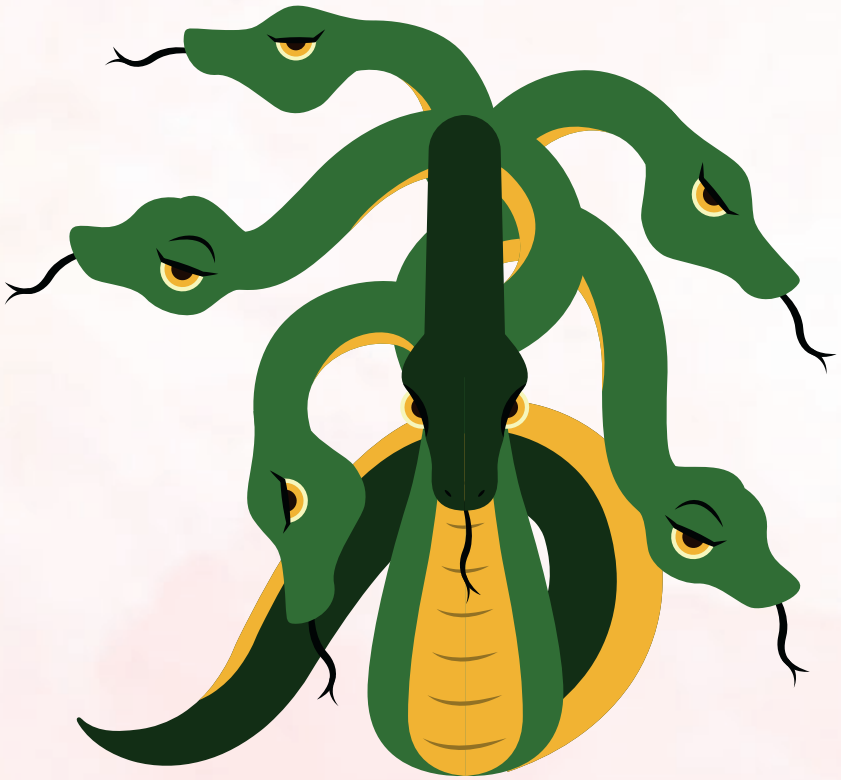
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_____.



Go back to the text and find the words that have the following meanings. You can use a dictionary.

1. _____ in or to a lower position than, under.
2. _____ the ability to control your fear in a dangerous or difficult situation.
3. _____ the home of particular types of wild animals.
4. _____ bright red light, like fire.
5. _____ to persuade someone to do something.
6. _____ thin fog produced by very small drops of water collecting in the air.
7. _____ dark and dirty or difficult to see through.
8. _____ to take something quickly and keep or hold it.
9. _____ to cause something to break noisily into a lot of small pieces.
10. _____ an area of very wet soft land.
11. _____ the ability to use your knowledge and experience to make good decisions and judgements.



Look at the pictures and think up a story of a new hero. Number the pictures according to how your story goes. Write one sentence about each picture and tell the story to the class.



1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.
5. _____.