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# AUNTIE MEDUSA AND ME

Marie Basting

## CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

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Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross-Curricular Opportunities
	As you read each chapter, make a note of the words in bold. Write down what you can infer about what they mean.		Look at the cover of the book. What kind of story do you think this will be? Can you tell who the main character is? Where and when do you think the story takes place?
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how the author shows Livi is conflicted by her dad's relationship with Chitra.</li> <li>What does the author mean by 'Janus-faced'?</li> <li>What does the author mean when Dad says 'Christmas deccies'?</li> <li>What does 'LARP' stand for?</li> <li>How does the author create a sense of splendour when the gateway to Romana is revealed?</li> </ul>	Write a short diary entry describing an unsettling dream caused by a visit from Athene Noctua.	<b>HISTORY:</b> Research what language was spoken in Ancient Rome. Is it still spoken (in everyday life or in particular professions or religions)? Are there any traces in the languages we speak today?
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting your answer using the text, explain why Livi covers her clothes with her palla.</li> <li>Uncle Vulcan is absent because he's taken Livi's sister, Scylla, to the dentist. Explain why Livi thinks the dentist is brave.</li> <li>Why is the new sanitation bill important?</li> <li>Why can't Livi stay in Romana for the Saturnalia festival?</li> </ul>	Create a family tree for Livi including the characters we've met in the first two chapters.	<b>DESIGN TECHNOLOGY:</b> Design a device to keep time. <b>ENGINEERING/ HISTORY:</b> What is a sanitation system? Research some early sanitation systems.



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3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can you infer what emotions the siblings are experiencing after Crassus interrupts? Support your answer using the text.</li> <li>Why do the siblings agree to hold off on the vote? Do you think Crassus is right?</li> </ul>	<p>Write a speech to convince the senators to pass a bill.</p> <p>Add to Livi's family tree.</p>	<p><b>POLITICS:</b> Livi is pleased Rome will become a true democracy. Research other forms of governance.</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you think Livi enjoys looking after the twins?</li> <li>Pick out some text to explain why Livi is not excited to discover the emerald ring in her dad's room.</li> <li>Do you think Livi's dad arrives in time to avert disaster? Discuss.</li> </ul>	<p>Make some predictions about what happens next in the story.</p>	<p><b>PSHE:</b> Create an emotions map based on how Livi may be feeling after the events of this chapter.</p>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How does Livi feel about Romulus coming to her school?</li> <li>Why are Livi's brothers and sisters supposed to be keeping a low profile?</li> <li>Describe the bronze orb Romulus produces and how he distracts Mr Boon with it.</li> </ul>	<p>Make an emotion map of how Livi might be feeling based on the events of this chapter and the one before it.</p>	
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can you infer what the words 'noggin', 'stola', 'hospitium' and 'synthesis' mean?</li> <li>Who are Stheno and Euryale?</li> <li>Why do you think the gorgons have come to Romana?</li> </ul>	<p>Write a newspaper article about Medusa's return. Consider the information you can include – who she is, the events that made her</p>	<p><b>ART:</b> Draw a gorgon, taking care to include any defining features.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why is Medusa knitting?</li> <li>Romulus is excited about the Sibylline Books. What can you infer from this?</li> </ul>	famous and speculate about why she's returned and if the public is at risk.	
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why is Albunea described as an A-lister?</li> <li>Describe Medusa's feelings during the Sybil's divination.</li> <li>How does Albunea interpret what Medusa wants? Make a list.</li> <li>How is Livi part of Albunea's revelation?</li> </ul>	<p>Turn this chapter into a play script.</p> <p>Write a story about a sybil from Greek mythology.</p>	<b>MYTHOLOGY:</b> Research sybils in Roman mythology.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does the Sybil mean by 'Your mouth falls open too easily'?</li> <li>Why does Medusa lead Livi to the back door of the temple?</li> <li>What is an amulet?</li> </ul>	<p>Make an emotion map for Livi.</p> <p>Devise a game of Pictionary using elements from the story. Make a list of at least 10 items.</p>	<b>HISTORY:</b> Research the Roman practice of augury.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why are Livi and her family confined to the temple domus at the start of the chapter?</li> <li>Albunea sends over a scroll. What does it contain? Is the message important?</li> <li>Who is Cleopatra?</li> <li>What does the author mean by 'canine' and 'feline'?</li> </ul>	<p>Make a list of canine traits and a list of feline traits. Write an article explaining their similarities and differences.</p> <p>Write a divination for Livi – make predictions for her future.</p>	<p><b>ART:</b> Design some Saturnalia decorations.</p> <p><b>ENGLISH:</b> Write a short story about Lupa and Cleopatra showing as many of the canine and feline traits as you can.</p>



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10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Livi realizes she's not in a dream anymore when she feels a weight on her chest. What else does Kevin's arrival signal?</li> <li>Can you infer the meaning of 'lectus' from the text?</li> <li>What word does Mrs Burden use on the whiteboard to represent the sort of mission she thinks Livi is going on? What else does she do to make this clear?</li> </ul>	Write a character profile for Mrs Burden. Include any defining traits.	<b>HISTORY:</b> Research the goddess Coventina. Why did the Romans adopt Gods from different countries?
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List the physical traits the author uses to show that Thelma is a robot.</li> <li>Why do you think Uncle Vulcan chose a twenty-first century appearance for Thelma? Do you think his original purpose for Thelma contributed to this choice?</li> <li>Has Uncle Vulcan done a good job with Thelma's design? Support your answer using the text.</li> <li>What is 'ichor'?</li> </ul>	You've been sent to spy on the briefing. Write a report detailing all the useful information you think your team will need.	<p><b>ART:</b> Draw Thelma using the description at the beginning of the chapter.</p> <p><b>TECHNOLOGY:</b> Create a list of Thelma's functions that can help Livi with her mission.</p> <p><b>HISTORY:</b> Research impluvia – origins, building materials and uses.</p>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What do you think Mrs Burden means by 'tough love'?</li> <li>Who does Remus think is responsible for stealing Medusa's head?</li> <li>Why has Felix been included in the team despite Livi's reservations?</li> <li>How have Mrs Burden and Uncle Vulcan split the tasks to get Livi and Felix ready for the mission?</li> </ul>	<p>Write a diary entry as Remus about the briefing.</p> <p>Add to your character profile of Mrs Burden.</p>	<p><b>MYTHOLOGY:</b> Research the Sphinx of Thebes.</p> <p><b>FOOD TECH:</b> Create a recipe for a contemporary honey cake.</p>



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13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write a list of all the protective gear Livi and Felix have been given.</li> <li>Why do you think the mission needs to be completed quickly?</li> <li>Can you describe how the communication lantern will help Livi in the catacombs?</li> </ul>	Create a kit list for an outdoor adventure.	<b>SCIENCE:</b> Research why Uncle Vulcan thinks it might be cold down in the catacombs.
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does 'limbo' mean?</li> <li>Why does Felix say to Livi, 'They don't need their body any more. They've had the proper burial rites.'?</li> <li>Who is Anthony Julius Alexander?</li> <li>Why is Anthony's wife not paying attention to Livi and Felix?</li> </ul>	Make some predictions about what happens next in the story.	<b>HISTORY/ARCHITECTURE:</b> Create a diagram of the catacombs. Include the loculi.
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why do you think Livi dismisses Thelma as dramatic? Is she right to do so?</li> <li>Make a list of some new vocabulary and research what their meanings. You might include: fresco, inscription, ossuary, russet, pedipalp.</li> <li>Why does Livi think the new tunnels are in a part of the catacombs reserved for the rich?</li> </ul>	<p>Use your vocabulary list to write a short story.</p> <p>Write this chapter from Thelma's point of view. What would be important to her and not necessarily to Livi?</p>	<b>PHYSICS:</b> One of Thelma's helpful functions is detecting heat sources. Research what type of technology does this (thermal imaging cameras) and some of the ways they are used (in rescue missions, agriculture, hospitals etc.).





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16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why do you think Livi describes Arachne as one of Minerva's victims?</li> <li>How does Livi's perception of Arachne change by the end of the chapter?</li> <li>How does Livi try to help Arachne with her loneliness?</li> <li>What does 'arachnophobia' mean?</li> </ul>	Write a character description for Arachne.	<p><b>BIOLOGY:</b> Research spiders, thinking about how they live, what they eat, their strengths and their weaknesses.</p> <p><b>MYTHOLOGY:</b> Research some famous punishments given to humans by the Roman gods.</p>
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the start of this chapter, Livi is fighting back claustrophobia. What do you think 'phobia' means?</li> <li>Why does Livi need to concentrate on her mission? What might be distracting her?</li> <li>Make a drawing of the cellar based on the description in the text.</li> <li>What assumption does the Sphinx make about why Livi and her party are there?</li> <li>Who is Minnie, and why do you think the Sphinx is warning Livi, Felix and Thelma not to upset them?</li> </ul>	<p>Add to your emotion map for Livi.</p> <p>Devise a riddle like the one Livi solves to get past the Sphinx.</p>	<p><b>HISTORY/MYTHOLOGY:</b> Research the Sphinx, including the Sphinx of Giza and other representations.</p> <p><b>ART:</b> Draw a sphinx, including all details you consider important.</p>
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can you describe the events in this chapter? Why is Livi's dread growing with every step?</li> <li>Do you think Livi is finding Felix's observations helpful?</li> <li>Why does Thelma malfunction?</li> </ul>	Put yourself in the children's position. What thoughts would go through your mind? Write a short journal entry about it.	<b>ART:</b> Create a series of frescoes depicting something memorable. It could be from the story, the Olympic games or from the news.



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19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does Livi suspect is responsible for the sounds they can hear in the labyrinth?</li> <li>Felix finds something useful in Livi's bag when he helps her find her phone. What is it and how does it help them?</li> <li>How does Livi buy time just as Minnie is about to charge for them?</li> </ul>	Write a newspaper article about the confrontation between Livi and friends and the minotaur. Think about how you'd introduce each of the characters, where they are and why, and the action itself.	<b>P.E.:</b> Create a cheerleading routine. Consider the moves/dances you might want to include. Come up with a slogan to accompany the routine.
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the mood in the labyrinth.</li> <li>Why does Livi have the Janus key?</li> <li>Summarize the reasons why Livi asks Felix to use his laser eyes on the shiny doors.</li> </ul>		<b>SCIENCE/GEOGRAPHY:</b> Research lava – how it is formed, what it is made up of, its temperature and where it can be found.
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Livi describes what they find in the vault as 'a collection built of wrongdoings'. Why does she think this? Support your answers using the text.</li> <li>Pick out some text to describe how Felix runs.</li> <li>Describe what happens to the floor of the vault.</li> <li>One of the items in the vault is Alan Titchmarsh's secateurs. From this, what can you infer about the vault?</li> <li>What does the engraving on the empty pedestal suggest to Livi and Felix?</li> </ul>	Create an inventory of the collection. Think about how you describe each item including its/their previous form and how it has been preserved.	<b>ART/BIOLOGY:</b> Choose a part of a plant – flower, leaf, root – to preserve. Research the methods you might use. Keep a journal to record the time it takes and what happens.





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22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how Livi calms herself and focuses on her mission.</li> <li>Who does the Collectoris turn out be?</li> <li>Why isn't Felix able to use his laser eyes?</li> <li>What revelation does Crassus make about his plot to take over Romana? Who is he in cahoots with?</li> </ul>	Add to Livi's emotional map. What new emotions might she be feeling now?	
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does Crassus hope to gain by his actions?</li> <li>Livi warns Crassus about Athene Nocturne, but he ignores her. Why do you think this is this case?</li> <li>Can you infer from the text the legendary move Livi was planning? How does that go?</li> <li>How does she escape the fate Crassus has planned for her?</li> </ul>	Write a story where the hero uses a Cap of Invisibility for a daring mission. Explore what could go wrong and what mistakes your hero could make.	<b>MYTHOLOGY:</b> Research the Cap of Invisibility.
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does Livi struggle with the most when they return to Romana?</li> <li>How was Thelma rescued?</li> <li>Why does Livi think Medusa has a sense of humour?</li> <li>Do you think the mission was successful? Support your answer from the text.</li> </ul>	Write a press release on behalf of Livi's family detailing recent events. Include some reassurance for the public that things are under control and back to normal.	<b>ART:</b> Using the inventory, create a poster inviting people to the garden of the temple domus to collect their objects retrieved from the vault.



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25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why are Uncle Vulcan and Romulus trying to persuade Euryale and Stheno to stay?</li> <li>Why does Euryale refuse? Do you think they are right to refuse?</li> <li>Can you infer why Livi says, 'What if there was a way to right this'?</li> </ul>	Write a character profile for Medusa.	<b>MYTHOLOGY:</b> Research the story of Psyche.
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is a 'funeral pyre'?</li> <li>What can you infer from Felix's behaviour?</li> <li>Why do you think Romulus and Remus are guarding the stone temple?</li> <li>Did you expect something to go wrong at the funeral? Discuss.</li> </ul>	<p>Add to Livi's emotion map.</p> <p>Write a newspaper article about Medusa's final funeral.</p>	<b>MUSIC:</b> Using your emotion map for Livi, make a playlist to help her through this phase of her mission.
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What do you think Livi means by, 'But did he really need to run everywhere like there was no tomorrow? He was immortal, for Jupiter's sake'?</li> <li>Livi reveals Medusa's funeral procession is a decoy. Pick out some text to explain how they did this.</li> <li>Describe some of the methods Athene Noctua uses to fight Livi, Felix and the funeral procession.</li> <li>Livi planned to lure Athene Noctua to the funeral. She has many methods to make sure they win this time. Do you think her plan works?</li> </ul>	<p>Predict what might happen next in the story.</p> <p>Write a breaking newsflash about the attack on the funeral procession.</p>	



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28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lupa is a metal wolf. Describe how Lupa is able to save Livi.</li> <li>What is Livi's surprise weapon?</li> <li>How does Livi escape the giant bird? Suggest where help comes from.</li> </ul>	<p>Add to Livi's emotion map.</p> <p>Turn this chapter into a play script.</p>	<p><b>DRAMA:</b> Think about the props you will need for your play script.</p>
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How does Uncle Vulcan bring Medusa back to life? Why do you think he has done so?</li> <li>Why is Medusa wearing sunglasses? How does robot Medusa rescue Livi?</li> <li>Describe Athene Noctua's signature move. Why do you think she does that?</li> <li>Describe what Felix has been up to. Do you think he was really running an errand for Athene Noctua?</li> <li>Highlight some of the descriptive language the author uses to describe the final confrontation with Athene Noctua.</li> </ul>	<p>Write this chapter from Athene Noctua's point of view. Consider her emotions and how they might change as the action takes place. Write a story where your hero has to battle a villain with the same mind-reading power as Athene Noctua.</p>	<p><b>SCIENCE:</b> In Greek mythology, Pandora's jar is said to be the source of all disease and misery in the world. Research how diseases come about.</p>
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the start of the chapter, Livi is checking off items in a list. What are these items for?</li> <li>How do they ensure Pandora's jar, the pithos, and its contents are safely banished?</li> <li>Describe Medusa's new role in Romana. What can you infer about it?</li> </ul>	<p>Remus loves public speaking and is excited about his speech at the unveiling. Write his speech – consider what recent events to highlight, introducing</p>	



## Chapter

## Comprehension Questions

## Writing Opportunities

## Cross-Curricular Opportunities

- Do you think Livi is still worried about her dad getting engaged to Chitra?
- Make some predictions about Livi's next adventure.

Medusa's new role in Romana and the concept of restorative justice.

Compare your predictions from earlier – were any right?

Write a book review including your own thoughts about the story and its themes and why others should read it.

**ART:** Draw or paint Medusa in her new body at the Saturnalia celebrations.

Create your version of the new plaque to replace Minerva's shield. Think about which characters and actions from the story you want to highlight.

Cross-check the glossary you have created of all the words in bold against the one included at the end of the book. How did you do?

