



Atalanta Follow-up Activities

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Here are some activities that you can try out with your class or tell-a-story group. These are designed to be carried out in co-operative groups, though could be adapted for individuals or pairs. The activities cover a wide area of Curriculum for excellence outcomes but focus on using expression and intonation in voice. For more ideas for using storytelling as a teaching tool in the classroom visit www.macastory.co.uk

- Use the 'Race of Love or Death' planning sheet. In a co-operative group of four, have the children draw out the incidents of the race on the sheet (you might want to re-visit the race commentary from the story before doing this or hand out copies of the text to work from, depending on whether you want to focus on listening or reading skills.)
- Participants can then use the completed race overview as a basis for developing their own race commentary. You might want to listen to some examples of sports commentaries as part of this process in order to focus on the vocabulary used by commentators, elements they tend to focus on (setting prior to start of the event, condition of competitors, crowd responses, etc.) and how they use expression and intonation in their voice.
- The group can split into pairs, one pair taking on the characters of Atalanta and Melanion acting out the incidents of the race and the other pair performing the commentary.
- The performance can be repeated with the pairs switching tasks.
- Extension ideas: the commentary can be performed to the class, recorded and replayed, filmed in the group with the race being acted out (this could involve researching Greek costume and creating props for the actors to use) or written as a piece of text.
- The complete story could be retold with the race commentary performed as part of the re-telling. As the story is quite long, it could be divided between larger groups or between the whole class. If you plan to do this, the main events in the story are as follows:
 - ❖ The king has a baby daughter and leaves her in a forest

- ❖ The child is raised by bears and can run like the wind
- ❖ A hunter finds, captures and adopts the girl, naming her Atalanta
- ❖ The hunter enters her in races which she wins
- ❖ The king re-claims her as his daughter, ordering that she marries
- ❖ Atalanta insists that she will only marry someone who beats her in a race... losers lose their heads!
- ❖ A youth called Melanion prays to the goddess Aphrodite for help. She gives him three golden apples and instructs him to throw them during the race
- ❖ During the race Melanion throws the apples... Atalanta is so distracted by their beauty that she stops to pick them up, giving Melanion enough time to win (This part can be told in the form of the commentary)
- ❖ Melanion and Atalanta are married, living a long and happy life
- ❖ Zeus turns them into lions and they run through the forests for ever more