

Worksheet 4

The Twelve Labours of Hercules

Stepmothers: Nasty or Nice

'Hercules was brave and amazingly strong. There was only one problem. His stepmother hated him. Now that would have been bad enough, but she was a witch with great powers.'

Poor old stepmothers! In lots of traditional stories, they are described as cruel and nasty. Think of Snow White. Her stepmother tried to kill her with a poisoned apple! What about Cinderella — she had a terrible time with a cruel stepmother and cruel stepsisters!

Task 1: Write a story in which the stepmother in the story is the **opposite** of the usual nasty type. She is sweet and charming and if she is a witch, she uses her powers for good not evil.

OR

Task 2: Write an **argumentative** text explaining why stepmothers have got a bad name from traditional stories.

