



# Greek Myths For Young Children

*Heather Amery (Editor)*

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## **Greek Myths For Young Children** Heather Amery (Editor)

The Greek myths are a fascinating part of our cultural heritage, and young children will find these stories of gods, mortals and monsters irresistible. This collection of the best-known stories are retold in a magical and sensitive way.'

## **Greek Myths For Young Children Details**

Date : Published January 1st 1999 by Usborne Books

ISBN : 9780746037256

Author : Heather Amery (Editor)

Format : Hardcover 128 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Mythology, Childrens, History



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# **From Reader Review Greek Myths For Young Children for online ebook**

## **Lauren Jamie says**

I like Greek myths a lot so this book is probably made for me

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## **Fitria Mayrani says**

Good for kids and their parents.

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## **Anna [Floanne] says**

Questo libro appartiene a mia figlia Irene. Irene che, non a caso, porta un bellissimo nome greco e che a pane e miti è stata svezzata, lo avrà letto almeno cento volte. E io con lei. Eco e Narciso, Dedalo e Icaro, gli Argonauti alla ricerca del vello d'oro, Teseo che affronta e sconfigge il Minotauro (mancano solo Orfeo ed Euridice per la quinta stella!): sono tutte storie che, se pur vecchie di millenni, sanno ancora affascinare ed educare grandi e piccini.

Complice uno stile narrativo semplice e delle belle illustrazioni, questo libretto tascabile offre un'ottima infarinatura di mitologia classica greca e mi auguro che sia, per Irene, un buon incentivo per approfondire l'argomento nei suoi studi futuri.

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## **Cathy says**

Mini Greek Myths for the Young is a beautifully illustrated compilation of the Greek mythological stories that have been enjoyed by adults and children for thousands of years. The book is constructed of sixteen chapters, each featuring an action packed myth such as Pandora's Box, King Midas or Jason and the Golden Fleece. The narrative is very accessible to children, though some of the names would prove tricky to pronounce for adults and children alike. Thankfully Heather Amery includes a page giving guidance on the pronunciation of names that is most helpful.

This book would be a great resource for project work in years 5 and 6 and would be useful across the curriculum in English, History, Art, Drama and even PE (lets not forget the origins of the Olympics!). It also works well as a story book which could be read aloud to children in years 3 and 4, but may be a little frightening for some children in key stage 1. The stories are fantastic and exciting - full of gods and monsters, good and evil, war and cunning.

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## **Nick says**

Lovely retelling of classic stories. Beautiful illustrations.

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## Kendall Soffer says

Title: Greek Myths For Young Children

Author: Heather Amery

Illustrator: Linda Edwards

Genre: Myths

Theme(s): life lessons and nature

### Brief Summary:

A collection of greek myths made for children. It includes gods, monsters, and immortals.

### Professional Recommendation/Review #1:

Marilyn Courtot (Children's Literature)

Major stories from Greek mythology, such as the tale of Pandora and how she released all the ills upon mankind, and fifteen others make up this introductory volume. The story of Persephone is an early attempt to explain the reason for changing seasons, while the tale of Arachne is a morality tale--Arachne's pride in her weaving skills causes her to challenge the goddess Athena and the goddess turns her rival into a spider. It is also a bit of a pourquoi story in that it explains why spiders spin webs. The pages are suffused with a variety of colors that match the stories and the borders also echo elements found in the myths. The pictures show Greek homes, dress, sailing vessels, etc. The typeface is large and the text has a conversational but not condescending tone. It is a good introductory collection and the one page pronunciation guide to Greek names will be useful to teachers and parents who read these stories aloud. 2000, Usborne, \$18.95. Ages 7 to 10.

(PUBLISHER: Usborne (London:), PUBLISHED: 1999.)

### Professional Recommendation/Review #2:

Williams, Marcia Greek Myths for Young Children

34 pp. Candlewick ISBN 1-56402-115-7

(5) K-3 series. Williams employs her characteristic cartoon format and illustrations to retell eight Greek myths, including 'Pandora's Box' and 'The Twelve Tasks of Hercules.' The irreverent tellings and lively art will attract readers, but do not do justice to the richness of the material.

Folktales/Myths/and Legends

### Response to Two Professional Reviews:

The first professional review seems to give more credit to the book than the second review. The first review thinks that it is a very beneficial book in showing the greek culture and language. The second review seems to think the art will attract readers but doesn't do the best it can to attract to how great the material really is.

### Evaluation of Literary Elements:

I found it very interesting that this book could be used to help children understand the greek culture. With excellent illustrations it really draws readers to accepting different culture and learning about new things.

### Consideration of Instructional Application:

I could use this book during social studies. Since it seems to revolve more around cultures it could help students visualize different countries and their ways.

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## Alex Popov says

so bad there is nothing more bad then this book so no ratings for this bad book that i can't read so bye bye see you when you are fired

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## Louise says

### 4 stars

One of very many children's books on Greek mythology, I picked this one up mainly because it's Usborne (I grew up on Usborne books and I have a certain amount of loyalty to them despite the fact that they keep putting out gendered shit like this) and because the pictures inside are pretty dang gorgeous. With so many of these sort of books about though it's always worth flipping through a few in the bookshop, maybe reading a couple of the stories, and getting the one that works for you. This one, I have to say, doesn't *quite* work for me. It's very good, perfect for the purpose I got it for – which was to ensure my Greek storytelling event later this month is age appropriate – and I'll be keeping it in my library of Greek myths, but it's far too kiddified in places for my own personal liking. For public storytelling where I don't know how (over)sensitive or protective children's parents are it's great. For my own kids/nieces/nephews (if I were ever to have any) I would want something that didn't gloss over Theseus leaving Ariadne, or pretended that Jason and Medea didn't murder her brother.

It's a beautiful book though, and I think it achieves its aim of working for both children too young to read and children just learning. It's written in a way that works very well when read out loud, while the typeface is big, bold, and easy to read for when the child wants to pick it up for themselves, and it's all accompanied by some really lovely and eye-catching illustrations. There's also a pronunciation guide for the Greek names at the back, which is very useful. And then it's got some really nice stylistic touches. Every page, even when it isn't illustrated, has a patterned border running round it – spiders for Arachne, snakes for Perseus and Medusa, a variety of Greek pot patterns etc etc. but a unique pattern for every story. The longer stories (Hercules, Odysseus, Jason) are broken up into smaller sections, making them easier to digest if you're reading 'one a night' with a child, and each story is written on different coloured pages, making it very easy to tell when one story ends and another begins. I don't have a working scanner or I'd put in a few examples here but I did find one bookseller site that did have a single page sample:

For me, though, though the book itself is beautiful (the dragons and sea serpents are all particularly great) the content of the text plays it just a little too safe: Medea doesn't kill her brother, she lives happily ever after with Jason, Ariadne doesn't get abandoned, Theseus's dad doesn't commit suicide, and the battles against monsters seem a little too perfunctory, making them less compelling than they should be. And yes, it's for kids (Usborne.com says 7+ but it's clearly aimed at younger), but the Usborne books of mythology I was reading when I was that age didn't shy away from that stuff – they may not have gone on to detail Medea's

infanticide, but they showed her killing her brother to help Jason escape. Lessons and videos we watched at primary school discussed Theseus leaving Ariadne. The ending of the Theseus story was always bittersweet, with the minotaur having been killed but, due to Theseus's neglect in changing his sails, his father having given him up for dead and jumped into the sea in grief. That's the emotional heart of the story.

I just find this book a little too codling in places and I know that, as a child, I preferred my monsters scarier and less easily dispatched and that what drew me, and continues to draw me, to Medea was her ruthlessness – she was so unlike any princess I'd ever read about before. A great book for read aloud sessions with groups of young children you don't know because, personally, I don't particularly want to step on someone else's parenting. But if I was reading this aloud to kids I knew well I would be surreptitiously adding more of the 'unsuitable' bits in for them. Kids can deal with a lot more than people think and I think it's the fact that Greek myths often don't conform to the 'happily ever after' narrative that makes them so intriguing.

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## **Julia says**

As the title states quite clearly this is a book for children so for any fans of the Classical mythoi I ask that you stay away from it. The illustrations are beautiful to look at, the stories are simple to follow for a child and they are put in some order if you will.

What I found wrong with this book is that the author chose to switch some of the names out. You have Roman versions of names mixed in with the Grecian versions of names, which I didn't like. The redeeming quality to the name issue is the pronunciation guide so children can try to read the stories with the actual pronouncing of the names although I did notice they don't include names that they thought may be self-explanatory.

The other thing I found about this book is again this is a children's book. Although there is death and hero quests in there it is actually pretty cleaned up from the common themes of sex, gore and infidelity found rampant in the original tales. You don't have the actual telling of the stories but a rendition that can be considered a cousin to the Disney remakes of fairy tales.

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## **Stephanie says**

### Greek Myths

In ancient times, Greeks made up wonderful and exciting stories about gods and goddesses, monsters, and brave heroes. The Greeks believed that the gods lived everywhere such as in forests, in the sea, underground, and in great palaces among the towering peaks of Mount Olympus. Occasionally, the Greeks saw the gods and goddesses, but other times they were invisible. If a god or goddess liked a person, he or she would be kind and helpful but if a god didn't like a person, he or she could be mean or play nasty tricks.

In this book, you will learn about Zeus, the leader of the gods and

his son Heracles. You will learn about Demeter and her daughter Persephone. You will also learn about Pluto the god of the underworld and many more!

This is a book full of adventure - Stephanie N

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### **Sam says**

I picked up this book hoping to be woo'd and drawn into the world of Greek mythology and this book of short myths seemed a good place to start. The stories for me far too brief and summed up in it seemed as little words as possible, this for me made what could be a great myth, quite the contrary and made it almost seem boring. Maybe it's merely the fact that Greek myths is not my thing, I guess that remains to be seen.

The characters that appealed to me the most were Zeus the almighty powerful god, Hercules and his adventures, Odysseus and his adventures, the prince Bellorophon and young fierce warrior Jason. As for the monsters it's hard for me to make a judgement on them as they were seemingly slaughtered so lustily and easily. (or maybe that's just because each myth is about 50 words).

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### **Rebecca says**

Love this beautiful little Greek Myths book. The illustrations are great and the stories are nicely edited to be appropriate for children.

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### **Kerry Kirkpatrick says**

A school read

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### **Chak says**

From my 9 year old son: "I thought it was pretty interesting and it gave me some ideas for maybe writing a story. I liked that it makes you think differently about things, and I wish there were more stories. If there was a family tree of the Gods, that would make it better." I liked that it is a nice little size (5.5" x 7", 324 g), is colorful and had a "How to Pronounce Greek Names" guide in the back.

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### **Annalisa says**

Because we are reading Percy Jackson, I've been getting mythology books for my daughter to read that will introduce her to the stories. This was a great overview with abbreviated stories and good illustrations.

