



World Mythology: An Anthology of Great Myths and Epics

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World Mythology is a compilation of over 50 great myths and epics. Your students will gain an appreciation and understanding of ancient and modern cultures through myths and epics from the Middle East, Greece and Rome, the Far East and Pacific islands, the British Isles, Northern Europe, Africa, and the Americas. An introduction and historical background supplement each myth. Questions at the end of each selection prompt analysis and response.

World Mythology: An Anthology of Great Myths and Epics Details

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Abby says

Enjoyed the vivid writing which animates classic stories that far too often have the life recited out of them. It avoided the dullness of Edith Hamilton while avoiding the silliness Neil Gaiman's collection of Norse myths. Additionally, it was full of tales I'd never so much as heard of before. At times, it is easy to sense that pieces of a myth have been oversimplified, but of course, it is an anthology.

This book looks at myths in the sociological context of their region and time period. A reader cannot finish it without absorbing just as much cultural perspective as lore and fables. The majority of cultural focus compares the Creation, Fertility, and Heroic myths of each world region.

Overall I learned much more from this book than any other mythology/folktale book I have read in the past. It is a great introduction to students, a nice revision for review, and a very enjoyable study for anyone interested in myth, fable, or anthropology.

JayeL says

We bought this book to get more information about Greek Mythology following reading the D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths version of Greek Mythology for kids. Over the years we have jumped around and read different myths and epics in this book, but we have mostly focused on the Greeks.

This time, however, we started with the old favorites and have just plowed through without picking and choosing. There are some very entertaining aspects of some of the unfamiliar myths. In one myth, the creator creates demons by farting them out of his rear end. This produced roars of laughter and continues to produce endless jokes in our house.

Regardless of origination of the various myths, we are finding a lot of similarities. For example, there are plenty of floods that happen to annihilate entire races that don't meet the expectations of the gods. I don't know if the editor is highlighting them or we are seeing how people are more similar than we think, especially in their story telling.

Some of the myths provoke a lot of discussion. One creation myth from Africa was particularly annoying. There are two major gods in this myth, Olorun (male) and Olokun (female). Olorun is the god of the sky and Olokun is the goddess of the sea. There is no land at this time. One of the lesser gods, Obatala, decides that it would be fun to create the earth. Following the directions of some of the other gods, he pours dirt into the water and land is formed. Essentially, he steals part of the Olokun's kingdom. Nowhere in the story does Obatala consult with Olokun about this action. Later in the story she gets angry and creates a big flood. Still, there is no discussion about resolving the issue fairly or appeasement going on. In the end, Olokun relents without any discussion and Obatala is not made to pay for stealing. I don't like the messages this myth sends out, but the discussions we had were interesting.

The abridgment isn't very good in this book, but it isn't terrible either. The editor writes/edits so the language

is quite repetitive and leaves out some critical parts of the various stories. The abridgment (and translation of the Kotan Utunnai is particularly repetitive). The editing also has a lot to be desired. There are words that are obviously wrong (warned instead of warmed in the Liu Chun/Bao Chu myth from China). Still, this book is getting us ready for the full versions.

Isabella says

Actual Rating: 4.8 Stars

A wonderful collection of some of the world's most famous myths, *World Mythology: An Anthology Of The Great Myths And Epics* is a fantastic glance at the beliefs of very different cultures.

Once I started this book in my senior year mythology class, I knew that I had to buy it. It is a wonderful collection for those who are starting to study different myths and legendary epics. I really enjoy the style in which Donna Rosenberg translates these tales - simple, concise, yet in a way, fitting with each story.

Some of these stories are very popular, and some were completely unknown to me; either way, it was so interesting to spend some time with each culture.

Chris Van Dyke says

This year we're starting out Sophomore English with a unit on Creation Mythology before turning to *The Odyssey*. I'm using this book as the core text because it gives a very broad overview of world mythology in an intelligent, inclusive, and complex fashion. I like how it breaks mythology down into specific ethnic traditions: instead of a section on "African Myths," they tell you which group, such as the Yoruba, the myth comes from; instead of "South American Myths," you get myths from the Tiahuanaco, the Aztec, and the Maya. The myths themselves retain their strangeness, their illogic, and their often disturbing violence and sexuality. All too often anthologies of myths boil them down into bland retellings that leave out all not just the sex and violence, but the bizarre contradictions that make myths so appealing in the first place. I highly recommend this anthology - the only downside is that it is some 700 pages, so getting enough copies for your students to take home would be expensive and getting them to lug them around difficult. I have one class set and use lots of hand-outs.

Shelly Hammond says

This one was ok. Sort of had to read it for some college work. It had some good myths but for the length of the book and the myths it chose to use for the longer ones compared to those it chose for the shorter ones, it really doesn't get over a three star. It's not evil bad, just could have been a lot better. If you have to read it and know nothing at all about mythology you will learn a lot about the most famous Greek and Roman myths along with the legends of King Arthur, but most of the other myths get very little attention.

Whitney says

This is a great overview of general mythology. The synopses of various myths are accurate and each myth is preceded by a short introduction of sorts that explains important facts about the myth, its origin, its evolution over time, its importance to its culture of origin and any other cultures that may have adopted it. Anyway, I picked it up as a quick refresher of mythology and it was just right.

Yelda Güzel says

İnsanoğlunun evren ve yaşam konusunda çok daha az şey bildiği, boşlukları hayal gücüyle doldurduğu zamanlardan kalma hikayeler. Okuduğunuzda, günümüz bilimkurgu/fantastik eserlerinin aslında pek de yeni fikirler içermediğini, yeni zannettiğimiz her şeyin aslında eskinin çeşitlemeleri olduğunu görebiliyorsunuz. İnsan aklı, algılayabildiği evrenle sınırlı sonuçta. Bilgimiz arttı ama algılarımızda bin yıl öncesine göre ileri düzeyde bir değişimlik yok. Bu antoloji, mitolojiye giriş kitabı olarak da okunabilir. Farklı kültürlerin mitolojilerine, birer örnek mit ile bir değinme... Yunan, Sümer, Hint ya da Britanya söylencelerine dair daha kapsamlı eserler bulabilirsiniz ancak Afrika ya da Eskimo söylencelerine dair eser az. Bu kitap, az duyulmuş söylenceleri de içeren, sizi dünyanın farklı kültürlerinin dünyaların da dolaştıran doyurucu bir eser...

Teri Temme says

Amazing book! Wow. I feel as if I have time travelled over the past couple of weeks. I have read about the myths of Greece and Rome, The Middle East, Northern Europe, The British Isles, The Far East and the Pacific Islands, Africa and the Americas - quite the ride. Very sad I missed out on these earlier in life, but delighted to have discovered them now.

From The Ramayana: Sita to Rama: "Do not grieve over what you have had to do. Each of us must accept whatever life brings. Wherever there is growth, there is decay. Wherever there is birth, there is death. Wherever there is prosperity, there is poverty. Wherever there are friendship and love, there is separation."

Kübra Yaşmur Aslanhan says

BTTTTTTTT???????????

yorum & puan sonra ama bitti yani cidden bitti ? hehheee

Amy says

I have never read mythology ever, so I surprised myself when I started getting into the stories we were told to read in Advanced Literature from this anthology including Heracles, Sigurd the Volsung, and King Arthur. It was interesting. I don't know if I would, even now, just pick up a book pertaining to mythology, but I know that if I do read one, I can come to appreciate and enjoy it.

♥ Cin says

The book goes into very high level detail about the most famous myths and gives a good overview of the most famous gods and heroes/legends. I probably wouldn't pick this one up on my own since it's a hard read at times. The book gave me a really good basic understanding of mythology from all cultures and I find myself going back to reference when I come across mythology references in other literature. Good to have on the shelf and a good starter if you're interested in studying it.

Rachel Chin says

A very stunning compilation of the myths and epics around the world. I really love it! It's like a window to the past that shows us what the ancient people believed in, and how they lived with each other--of course, the written works were greatly influenced by what was happening in their environment and by their lifestyle during that time. I like how the book was made. I like that it gives us an overview of the tribe or country where the myth/epic belongs to. I like that it shows a brief introduction of the characters before the story which gives us an idea on what the characters' roles are throughout the story. We have actually only read about 30 stories from this book, in the class, but since it's in our library, I'm probably gonna read the rest of the stories

Sami says

Bana kalirsa kitabın hakkı 3.5*

Misir mitolojisi inanılmaz ustunkoru olmus ve Slav mitolojisine deginilmemis bile. Afrika mitolojisi ise bir an once o kisimlari gecmeye calismama sebep oldu

William says

A pretty thorough compilation of various myths from all sorts of culture, reading through too quickly may even give you a bit of culture shock, not just about what's different but even more surprisingly what's similar. It seems to have some chronological ordering, starting with ancient Assyrian before moving on the old standby Greek and Roman myths, you don't get to the Norse ones until quite a bit further in, and it ends with some seemingly uncommon recitals, from Africa and the Americas. Each story is given a solid introduction, including the sort of society it was developed in, where certain themes might have come from, and often a list of characters and gods for reference. The stories themselves are edited and abridged to fit the tome, but not much is lost this way, it's the story this text is concerned with, the personal story arches, of heroes and gods alike. If you get assigned this book for reading in a class, smile, it might become your favorite, if you're enthusiastic enough to just keep reading.

Another text you might find perfect to keep around after it's typical life span, wonderful to reference just for fun, to sink your teeth into for a number of hours, and it gives you freedom readily without pushing you, to really think about the subject matter. It says, here's some facts about where it came from, and here's the story,

consider at your leisure. Excellently put together.

Joshua Michail says

Donna Rosenberg created more than just an encyclopedia of myths from around the world in this book, she provides each myth in great detail along with some explanatory work. This book has proven to be an invaluable resource for expanding one's reading of classical literature. She categorized the sections by regions of the world, and offers background and introduction for each story. Among the many myths or stories are Beowulf, King Arthur, Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, Virgil's Aeneid, Gilgamesh, the stories of Hercules, The Life and Death of Heracles, Romulus & Remus, The Enuma Elish, the Viking stories involving Thor, Odin, Loki, etc., and much more from Native American stories, African stories, Asian stories, and Pacific Island stories. I recommend this book as a great way to be read well in many classic epics and myths from the convenience of a single book.
