



D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths

Ingri d'Aulaire, Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

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Here are the gods, goddesses, and legendary figures of ancient Greece--mighty Zeus, with his fistful of thunderbolts; gray-eyed Athena, goddess of wisdom; Helios, the sun; greedy King Midas--lavishly depicted by Caldecott winners Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire. In a relaxed and humorous tone, these splendid artists bring to life the myths that have inspired great European literature and art through the ages, creating a book readers of all ages will cherish.

"For any child fortunate enough to have this generous book...the kings and heroes of ancient legend will remain forever matter-of-fact; the pictures interpret the text literally and are full of detail and witty observation."--*The Horn Book*

"The drawings, particularly the full-page ones in this oversized volume, are excellent and excitingly evocative."--*The New York Times*

"Parents, uncles, and aunts who have been searching for a big picture book that has good reading-aloud value for the younger ones and fine read-it-yourself value on up, have it in this volume...a children's classic."--*Christian Science Monitor*

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths Details

Date : Published March 1st 1992 by Delacorte Press (first published 1962)

ISBN : 9780440406945

Author : Ingri d'Aulaire , Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

Format : Paperback 192 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Mythology, Classics, Childrens, Fiction

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From Reader Review D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths for online ebook

booklady says

One of those books every home should have and every child should read growing up. I wish I had read it then, but no. However, I still have (somewhere!) my very worn copy of Edith Hamilton's Mythology which I read over and over. Instead I first enjoyed *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths* with my own children.

Did they/we *believe* in the Greek and Roman gods? No more than Mother Goose, but they formed the imagination and are part of our Western understanding of who we are. We come from the Greeks.

Best of all this book is beautiful! The author-artists, Ingri and Edgar D'Aulaires, have created a sumptuous treat both for eye and imagination. It is a book which teaches and also satisfies the soul. No idea how many times this reading makes. Hopefully it will not be my last!

Irmak says

Bana Yunan Mitleri'ni anlatan kitaplar verin ve kendi halime b?rak?n. O kadar seviyorum. Ayn? ?eyleri defalarca okuyabilecek kadar hemde.

Elimdeki bu bask? Yunan Mitleri'nin gençler için olan sadele?tirilmi? bask?s? ve içinde birbirinden muhte?em çizimler var. Okuman?n yan?nda o çizimleri incelerken geçen vaktin fark?na varm?yorsunuz, hele de benim gibi her detay? inceliyorsan?z.

Yunan mitolojisinde ölümlüler Tanr?lara nas?l tap?yorsa Tanr?larda Toprak Ana'ya öyle sayg? gösteriyorlard? çünkü Toprak Ana bütün hayat?n kayna??yd?. Ve bu kitapta da Toprak Ana'n?n ilk çocuklar?ndan ba?layarak, Tanr?lar?n çocuklar?n?, Prometheus'un neden cezaland?r?ld???n?, Pandoran?n kutusunu, Hades ile Persephone'nin hikayesini (*ki kendisi her zaman en sevdi?im k?s?m olmu?tur*) ve daha nicelerini okuyoruz.

Ben alt?n? sat?r sat?r çizerek, büyük keyif alarak okudum. Çok derinlemesine bir inceleme beklemeyin dedi?im gibi sadele?tirilmi? bir bask? bu ama daha önce hiç okumad?ysan?z ve ilginizi çekiyorsa keyif alaca?n?z? dü?ünüyorum.

"Her y?l, ne zaman Persephone Demeter'i b?rak?p gitse, i?te o zaman Demeter üzülür ve bu yüzden do?ada hiçbir ?ey büyümez, yeryüzünde k?? olur. Ne zaman ki Demeter k?z?n?n usul usul ayak seslerini duyar, i?te o zaman bütün dünya çiçeklenir. Bahar gelmi?tir art?k. Anne ve k?z birlikte olur olmaz, dünya ?s?n?r ve a?açlar meyve verir."

Brad says

I remember taking this book out of the library at my elementary school, Queensland Downs Elementary School, when I was in Mrs. Sanders' class for grade three. We were in the library for a library period, and I asked Mrs. Dalgliesh, our groovy librarian, for a book. I can't remember if I was the one who suggested Greek Mythology or if it was she, but I do remember her aiding me at the card catalogues, then she sent me off to the shelves to track down "292 DAU [JUV]."

That little journey changed me irrevocably.

I devoured D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths in what was then record time, and within days I was debating my father on theology. I demanded to know why I couldn't worship Zeus instead of his God; I wanted to know why, if the Greek Gods came first, they had a flood, Heracles was resurrected, and Phrixus was saved from being sacrificed by his father by the presence of a golden ram, amongst other things. I wanted to know how Christianity could have such similar myths.

It was the beginning of the end of my religiosity and the penultimate blow to my catholicism. It was the end of my acquiescence to unjust authority. It was the end of acceptance without questions. It catalysed my constant search for understanding. It was the beginning of my father's disdain for me, and his fear of my mind (the latter, I've always suspected, was close to the root of much of the abuse I suffered at his hands). It was the moment of my enlightenment. And I've loved this book deeply from the second I first closed its cover until today.

I finished reading it to our twins last night. To hear them talk today, they are in love with the book themselves, though I doubt it can be felt as deeply as my love for the book. We encourage them to think for themselves, to question, to seek, to demand that authority earns respect, so their experience with the book isn't as revelatory as mine. They have parents who've been answering their questions -- about gods, life, death, where babies come from, about anything -- since they were asking questions. They haven't needed to find that power for themselves, we've pointed the way to that power from the start. Still, they love this book, and I hope they share it with their kids (if they choose to have kids) in turn.

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths is a marvellous book full of marvellous stories, and now the Greek playwrights and poets and philosophers await. Medea first? Hmm ... maybe The Birds? Or should it be The Iliad? I think I will let the twins decide.

Susanna - Censored by GoodReads says

I adored this book when I was a child.

Rachel says

This book introduced me to Greek mythology and I've yet to find its equal in the genre. I first read this in grade school, having found the hardcover version in my school library. I checked it out several times--though it's an oversize book and was therefore as a hardcover a bit heavy to drag home and back, I always felt it was worth it.

The artwork is incredibly detailed and beautiful, and the written portrayal of the various gods and goddesses, heroes and monsters is highly sympathetic toward and attentive to the strengths and failings of human beings, of both virtue and weakness (strengths and failings which the Greek deities were believed to share themselves, in no small measure).

From the drawing of the "family tree" of deities--the Titans led by Cronus proceeding to Zeus and his siblings, to their children--to the map of ancient Greece with notable mythical events and sites marked (where Zeus flung Hephaestus, where Aphrodite rose from the sea) to the drawings of constellations as various heroes and creatures were placed in the sky by the gods, there is a powerful and humbling sense throughout of what ancient Greek civilization has provided us. Even now as an adult when I read it, I am impressed by all the words and terms that Greek folklore has bequeathed to the English language and no doubt its sister tongues ("panic" from the satyr demigod Pan, "echo" from the nymph of the same name cursed to forever repeat the words of others, "narcissism" from the youth Narcissus who pined away from desiring his own reflection in the water, etc).

Highly recommended not only for children, but for anyone who loves well-drawn and well-narrated folklore.

Stuart says

Hands down the best book of Greek Myths ever, this classic is a good introduction for kids and holds up as a principal reference work for adults. Beautifully illustrated with pictures that fascinated and haunted me from the first time I saw them, this book is also scrupulously researched and written in clear but evocative language that translates the power and importance of these stories. Thorough, almost every Greek god and major or minor myth is represented here, with the Trojan War and all that followed being the only part of the traditions to receive a somewhat perfunctory treatment- no doubt due to their unquestionably adult themes. But that doesn't make this volume any less worth owning, but rather underlines its ultimate purpose: to open a door into the bottomless universe of classical studies.

Emily says

6/23/13:

I read this again and again as a child. My intimate knowledge of the stories helped enormously in my high school English classes. It breaks my heart a little that my son is, for some perverse reason of his own, fixed in the idea that he doesn't like Greek myths.

Update of 8/9/14:

Now reading this aloud to my son, slightly against his will, as it was clear he'd never read it on his own. He was engrossed by the first section, and the text when read aloud flowed better than I'd expected it to. Feeling encouraged.

9/3/14:

The gods are jerks, for the most part. The illustrations, though, I love them so much. I think they really made the book for me, when I read it as a child (all those pretty goddesses!). Unfortunately, another goodreads reviewer has pointed out the oddness of none of the horses pulling chariots having harnesses, which I would never have noticed, but henceforth this will bother me whenever I see the cover.

Joanna says

I discovered this book in the 5th grade in my school's library. I would sit cross legged right on the floor by the bottom shelf where it was kept, spread out the huge, thick book on my lap and read while I looked at the wonderful drawings. When we moved I semi-forgot about the book, not remembering the author's name; when I was in college I was walking by a bookstore in a mall when I glanced at the display case to see a book with the same style of drawings. I immediately went in to discover the store did not have my beloved book on Greek myths, but they could order it for me. I jumped at the chance to finally own the book.

This is a wonderful way to introduce children to Greek mythology. The stories are engagingly told, and the drawings catch the eye and compliment the myths well. I do have to admit the book, while still big, was not as large as my 10 year old self remembered. :)

Carolyn Hembree says

I found the slant of these tellings somewhat disturbing, i.e. how they were made "appropriate" for children. On the one hand, pretty brutal violence (plucking out livers, tearing someone apart, immolation) was a-okay, while all of Zeus' lady friends (read: women he sexed and those he raped) actually voluntarily married the jack off. This includes Leda. So, violence is fine for kiddies, but rape is really sex, which means it's too naughty to talk about. Editing Medea to not kill her babes was also an interesting choice, when dads are killing the kids left and right. Lessons for my daughter? Maybe not. Give me my Grimm's fairy tales. ... I'll change the pronouns.

Shelle Klein Houser says

This book is amazing. The retellings of the myths are vibrant and fascinating and the illustrations are mild enough for a child to enjoy but compelling enough to interest an adult.

When I was a kid, I used to take this book out of the library over and over and I would read it when I was at a friend's house and they had a copy. Naturally I had to buy my son, Archer a copy of the book because I wanted him to love it like I did. Kids don't always love what their parents love, however, so I put it on his shelf and waited for him to discover it.

One day he asked me about a myth so I started reading him the book, then I had to go do something (laundry maybe, I forgot what). I came back a while later to find him buried in D'Aulaire's Greek Myths and completely ignoring me. An hour later, same story. He re-reads it now as I re-read it when I was a kid. Also, sometimes I re-read it as an adult.

If I could give this book 6 stars, I would.

G. Branden says

Everyone, no matter what his or her age, should read this indispensable retelling of the Greek Myths, a foundation stone of the Western tradition.

I feel immensely fortunate that I was exposed to this title by my parents at a very young age.

It does, however, have two drawbacks, one I can forgive and one I almost cannot. First, the myths are a little bit bowdlerized. But since this is a book for children (albeit one which doesn't hesitate to stretch the vocabularies of younger ones), I can excuse that.

The bigger problem is that there is no pronunciation guide. Pronunciation of Greek names, since they in some cases came into English through the digestive tracts of Latin and Old French before landing in England in 1066, and in some cases are more modern borrowings, is wholly unpredictable by, well, any English speaker, let alone children. It is perhaps a shame that the popular culture doesn't make allusions to Hephaestus, Mnemosyne, Terpsichore, Dionysus, and Aeneas as an everyday matter, but the fact is it doesn't, and it's a shame to leave little kids at sea (like Perseus?).

Before I gift this to some young relatives of mine, I intend to prepare a pronunciation guide in LaTeX (or LyX) and tape it into the endpapers.

zzzz says

I know this is like everyone's favorite childhood mythology book (including mine, I think), but I don't like it. It does that thing where rapes are glossed over as "marriages", which is horrible to read if you know what actually happens in the myths. I know that they can't actually talk about rape in a kids book because we can't ever bring up anything sex-related in a kids book, but it makes me really uncomfortable, you know?

Also, my brother and I were flipping through this book the other day, and we saw a drawing of the Andromeda: incredibly pale skin, blue eyes, blonde hair. Andromeda, who is an *Ethiopian princess*. I know that she gets white-washed in every painting ever, so the d'Aulaires' were probably just following in that tradition, but *come ooooooon*. She looks like she's from Scandinavia.

Besides that, though, there are lots of stories in here, so it is a good introduction to Greek mythology. The drawings aren't artistic masterpieces but most of them are quite nice.

Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

Not only is this a five star book. I have to add it to my list of best books ever. Every kid should read this one. These are stories full of all the things we love in tales---action, adventure, love, cruelty, war, friendship, fighting---all the things that make us human.

#bookaday

'trie says

This is the very first book I remember reading all by my little self when I was three and I have read it a million more times. My copy is old (stolen from my elder brother, in fact; it was his first), taped back together, missing its covers, and extremely well-loved. It has inspired a lifelong fascination with mythology and the ancient world and probably played a large part in my obsessive need to learn everything about everything--not that that's possibly, but it's fun to try. The stories have been dialed back a bit for bitlets, but the stories still hold true to the original intentions, in my opinion. The illustrations might not be fine art prints, but they are lovely when you're small and don't diminish as one ages. Go, find a copy, and read this. Read about Persephone eating pomegranate seeds, Eos forgetting to ask for eternal youth for her love, Selene learning from her sisters mistake and keeping Edmyntion held in eternal sleep, Hephestus and his robots, and Hermes' childhood antics. You won't regret it and you might want to continue to want to read more and more about Greek mythology.

Christina Pilkington says

This is the most gorgeously illustrated book of Greek mythology I have ever read! I was going to check it out from the library to read with my 10 year old twins, but when I looked through the pages on Amazon, I knew I had to own this book.

The collection of myths are grouped together in such a way that stories build on top of one another which makes it both easier to understand and often more exciting. They are incredibly readable with the stories flowing easily one into the other.

I'd highly recommend purchasing a copy of this book, especially if you are doing so for younger readers. I know I will come back again and again to read this book throughout the years.
