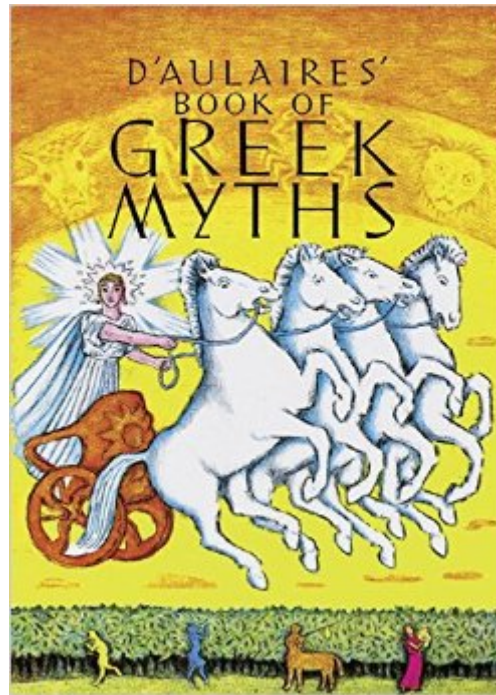


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# D'aulaire's Book Of Greek Myths



## Synopsis

In print for over fifty years, D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths<sup>®</sup> has introduced generations to Greek mythology<sup>®</sup> and continues to enthrall young readers. Here are the greats of ancient Greece<sup>®</sup> "gods and goddesses, heroes and monsters<sup>®</sup>" as freshly described in words and pictures as if they were alive today: • Powerful Zeus, king of the gods, with his fistful of thunderbolts • Hermes, mischievous trickster and messenger of the gods • Gray-eyed Athena, goddess of wisdom and battle strategy • The monstrous Minotaur, slain by brave Theseus • Snake-haired Medusa the gorgon, turning enemies to stone with her steely stare • Hercules the mightiest, part mortal, part god These and other equally magnificent figures parade across the pages, their heroic deeds and petty squabbles illuminated in full dimension.<sup>®</sup> No other volume of Greek mythology has inspired as many young readers as this timeless classic. Both adults and children alike will find this book a treasure for years to come.<sup>®</sup> • "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 . . . are excellent and excitingly evocative." • "The New York Times A New York Public Library<sup>®</sup> 100 Great Children<sup>®</sup> 100 Years selection An NPR 100 Must-Reads for Kids 9<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> selection

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1070L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Doubleday Books for Young Readers; First edition (October 19, 1962)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385015836

ISBN-13: 978-0385015837

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.8 x 12.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars<sup>®</sup> • See all reviews<sup>®</sup> (612 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #8,582 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in<sup>®</sup> Books > Literature & Fiction > Mythology & Folk Tales > Fairy Tales #31 in<sup>®</sup> Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Greek & Roman #215 in<sup>®</sup> Books > Children's Books > Classics

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I first read this book when I was twelve years old and it affected me so much that ten years later I still have a deep and abiding love of Greek mythology. A ratty, paperback copy I found at Salvation Army still holds *the* place of honor in my Greco-Roman collection, usurping *The Odyssey*, *The Iliad*, Edith Hamilton, and Robert Graves. What originally struck me as so fantastic (and still does) is that the D'Aulaires don't write down to their audience or edit out details important to the original myth that some parents might not approve of. The end result? An all ages storybook and mythological primer that no one should be ashamed to own. The drawings are an acquired taste, falling somewhere between Classical pottery paintings and Art Deco, but they do grow on you. My only quibble is that there's no pronunciation guide, which can really hamper you if this is your first exposure to these stories. Buy this for for your children or even for yourself, you will never regret it.

This book has been in print for at least 40 years. It was my introduction to Greek mythology when I was in elementary school in the early 60s. Now, a very educated middle aged man who has read Homer, Hesiod, Ovid, the Athenian playwrights, and all the great literature based on the mythology, I can tell you that 75% of my basic knowledge of these myths still comes from my devouring, re-reading, absorbing D'Aulaire in what can only be called a child's fantasy paradise. I have no children, but if I did and could gift them as I was gifted, I would count myself a successful parent if I did nothing more than introduce them to this book. The gorgeous illustrations are still burned in my memory. How any team of writers could depict Kronos devouring his children, Arachne being transformed into a spider, and so forth, and not make it frightening to a small child--well, this book is a miracle. Check it out and may your family cherish it.

I think this book introduced me to the idea of studying. When I was young, I devoured this. I knew every story, every character, and every adventure. This was the foundation for more book reports and special projects than I could list. The myths are presented in an easily understandable format that does not talk down to children. The illustrations, while simple, are full of life and charm. This is a perfect children's book. "D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths" also gave me a great insight into a more adult world, and a curiosity, which I still carry to this day. Astronomy was no problem, as I already knew the names of things. Science also held fewer mysteries than it might have. (Hippocratic oath anyone?) My interest in Greek Myths lead to interest in Rome, which was followed by Shakespeare's Roman plays. Greek statuary lead to an interest in art, and a trip to the British Museum. Someday I hope to travel to Greece itself, and view the stomping grounds of Heracles and Belpheron. All starting from this book. I think that is a pretty good recommendation.

My mom got a copy of this book for the family when I was 6 or 7 and I read it so much that the pages fell out. I memorized the myths and told them to my friends. This book started a life-long love of mythology--okay, so I'm only 23--still, I adore the human foibles of the gods, and I LOVE the illustrations. They have ingrained in me the way I see the Greek Gods and inspired me to take a trip to Athens and the rest of Greece. As I stood at Leto's rock in Delfi, tears came to my eyes. I realized that I was where she had given baby Apollo the mission to take it as his own temple, and the majesty and history of the place nearly overcame me. My mom got me a copy of this for my 21st birthday, and it was the best present I had gotten (and have gotten) in a long time. If you like Greek myths, you will love this book. If you just like stories, you will love this book. The only inaccuracy is that to make the stories age-appropriate, many of Zeus' "adventures" are somewhat censored, but not in a major way.

The first time I read this book was in my elementary school library when I was nine. I checked out the book again and again until my mother took notice of my monopolization and bought me a copy of my own. It was an eye-opening experience for me as a young girl, being aware that there were other religions besides Christianity, and those that had existed long before. This book became a particular bonding instrument for my mother and I. My obsession with this book sparked her interest and now she has my old copy that is scribbled full of her notes. It is a great, simplistic introduction to Greek mythology and something that I still refer to when I need a quick refresher about a certain god, hero or myth. I attribute this book for instilling in me the love of reading, history and world religions and for narrowing my focus on what I wanted to study once I went to college. It also gave me a much more humanistic perspective in viewing religion, a concept that had only been really an abstraction for me up to that point. I encourage anyone to give this gift to any young person who loves to read. The illustrations are charming and aid the entertaining narrative so as a whole it is very easy for a child to absorb and comprehend. This book should not be overlooked. It could change your life too!

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Understanding Greek Myths (Myths Understood (Crabtree))  
Greek Mythology: Classic Myths of Ancient Greece; featuring Zeus, Hercules, Greek Gods, Goddesses, Titans, Romans, Monsters, and Heroes  
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