



Children's Books on Ancient Greek and Roman Mythology: An Annotated Bibliography (Bibliographies and Indexes in World Literature)

By Antoine Brazouski, Mary J Klatt

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The classical heritage continues to impact modern culture in many ways. This bibliography lists and describes those books on Greek and Roman mythology from the mid-19th century to the present which are useful for introducing children to the classical world. The volume begins with a brief history of children's books on classical mythology in the United States. A chapter then discusses the various techniques through which classical myths were adapted for children. The annotated bibliography follows, with each entry including a critical annotation on how closely the work adheres to the original myth. Each entry also includes an indication of the grade level of each book. Indexes allow the user to locate sources according to title, illustrator, time period, myth, and subject.

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Editorial Review

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"The purpose of this book is to facilitate the selection of elementary-school-level books on ancient Greek and Roman mythology." The annotations cover 381 books, published from the mid-nineteenth century through 1992, which are useful for presenting the classical world to children in grades 4 to 8. Three-quarters of the books listed were published before 1980 and are likely to be out of print.

Three scholarly essays enhance the book's usefulness. The preface focuses on the importance of children studying mythology. The other two are "History of Children's Books on Greek and Roman Mythology in the U.S." and "The Retelling of Myths to Children: Methodologies." There is an index to the introductory material plus indexes by title, illustrator, publication date, myth, and subject.

Arranged alphabetically by author, "[e]ach book has been reviewed with critical rather than descriptive annotations." For example, the annotations for Evslin's retelling of myths in the *Monsters of Mythology* series (Chelsea House) and Hawthorne's *A Wonder Book/Tanglewood Tales* discuss how these versions differ from ancient sources. The book includes discussions of such well-used books as *Bulfinch's Mythology*, Coolidge's *Greek Myths*, Cox's *Magic and the Sword*, D'Aulaire's *Book of Greek Myths*, Elgin's *First Book of Mythology*, Richardson's series for Troll Associates, and Serrailier's books. Switzer's *Greek Myths* (1988) is not listed. The appropriate grade level is noted for each title.

Although the age of most of the titles listed means that this book will not be very useful for collection development, it will be helpful as a weeding tool. The essays should be shared with both teachers and students.

About the Author

ANTOINETTE BRAZOUSKI is an Instructor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Northern Illinois University. An authority on Augustan literature, classical mythology, and classical epic poetry, her publications have appeared in *Helios*, *The Classical Bulletin*, and *The Ancient History Bulletin*.

MARY J. KLATT is Mediated Search Services Coordinator and Information Services Librarian at the library of Loyola University of Chicago Medical Center.

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