



Resource Section

Myth Resources

*These books were selected to provide further reading on the subject of each of the heroes included in the Make-A-Hero activity. **The books are intended for ages 9-12, unless otherwise noted.***

D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths

Ingri D'Aulaire and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire (Doubleday, 1962)

This classic volume of Greek mythology is beautifully illustrated and well written. This book is destined to leave a lasting favorable impression with your students.

Isis and Osiris

Geraldine Harris (NTC Publishing Group, 1997)

This is a novelization of the myths of Isis and Osiris, told through a fictional account of real-life twin sisters who lived 2000 years ago. In the book, the sisters learn the legend of Isis and Osiris, giving the readers a chance to learn along with them. This book also gives students a glimpse into the Ancient Egyptian culture.

The Legend of Mu Lan: A Heroine of Ancient China

Wei and Cheng An Jiang (Victory Press, 1997)

An authentic re-telling of the classic story illustrated with watercolor illustrations. The story is told in both English and Chinese. (Also available in Spanish)

In the Beginning: Creation Stories from Around the World

Virginia Hamilton, Barry Moser, ill. (Harcourt Brace, 1991)

"Moon and Sun: Mawu-Lisa the Creators" The Moon and Sun story in Hamilton's beautifully illustrated book retells the Fon myth of the way Mawu and Lisa became Mother and Father of all the other gods.

The Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt

Leonard Everett Fisher (Holiday House, 1997)

This colorful book includes one page for each of the important Egyptian gods and goddesses. Each page depicts the god or goddess, and the important symbols that accompany each. At the end of the book, students will find a family tree and pronunciation guide to the names of the deities.

Warriors, Gods and Spirits from Central and South American Mythology

Douglas Gifford, John Sibbick, ill. (Peter Bedrick Books, 1983)

This beautifully illustrated volume contains a section entitled Gods of the Aztecs, which tells the story of Quetzalcoatl. The book also contains an index, map, and a guide to symbolism in the stories.

The Making of Monkey King

Retold by Robert Kraus and Debby Chen, Wenhai Ma, ill. (Pan Asian Publications, 1998)

This book is the first in a series of the Monkey King's adventures. Exquisite watercolor drawings accompany the earliest exploits of this mischievous hero. In this book, he sets off on a journey to find immortality. (Also available in Spanish)

Star Wars: The Power of Myth

David John, ed. (Dorling Kindersley, 1999)

This book clearly explains the mythical dimensions of the Star Wars saga. It is full of information about the hero archetypes and common mythical themes that shape the entire Star Wars legend.

Background Reading

The following resources may provide enrichment for students, or background reading for teachers. **The publications are intended for ages 9-12, unless otherwise noted.**

Illustrated Dictionary of Mythology

Phillip Wilkinson, Neil Philip (Dorling Kindersley, 1998)

This book is both a visual and informational resource for understanding myths of many cultures. The contents include not just the classic myths, but Japanese, African and Australian heroes as well. You may wish to use this book as a starting point for your own research, then use other books for more detailed information. (Adult reading level)

The Book of Goddesses

Kris Waldherr (Beyond Words, 1997)

This book features 26 traditional tales of goddesses from different cultures and eras. Each goddess is illustrated, and the text accompanying each describes the beliefs that lend divinity to each of these women. (Nine-adult)

Cat Mummies

Kelly Trumble, Laszlo Kubinyi, ill. (Houghton Mifflin, 1999)

This book sheds different light on the subject of mummies, and on the spiritual life of the Ancient Egyptians. Readers will learn about the sacred nature of cats in Ancient Egyptian culture, and see beautiful illustrations that bring the story to life.

Star Wars: The Magic of Myth

Mary Henderson (Bantam, 1997)

This is the official companion volume to the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum exhibit. The author, curator of the exhibit, thoroughly discusses the mythological roots of the Star Wars saga. (Adult reading level)

The Mighty Aztecs

Gene Stuart, Mark Godfrey, ill. (National Geographic, 1981)

Although this book is mostly a historic account of the Aztec Empire, it gives excellent insight into the culture and provides information about Quetzalcoatl and his legend. Note: Since the book contains photographs of people in modern day Mexico, it may send a confusing message to some students about the historic nature of the Aztecs. (Adult reading level)

Calliope Magazine

Each issue of this World History magazine centers on a theme. Each 52-page issue includes articles that extend the young reader's understanding of a particular theme. Additional monthly features: maps, time lines, illustrations, and art from major museums. Back issues are available. Some relevant back issues:

Queens of Egypt: Nov./Dec., 1991

Pharaohs of Egypt: Sept./Oct., 1994

Science and Medicine in Ancient Egypt: Sept., 1997

China's First Emperor: Shi-Huangdi: Oct., 1997

The Theatre in Ancient Greece: Nov., 1997

