



Jeremy and the Enchanted Theater

Becky Citra
illustrated by Jessica Milne

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About the Book

Long ago, the Enchanted Theater was a wonderful place. People came from everywhere to see the ancient Greek plays. Mr. Magnus bought the theater and the trouble started. Mr. Magnus made up new endings for the plays. He mixed up all the characters. Zeus, the king of the Greek gods, was furious. He hurled lightning bolts at the theater. The power went out. People stopped coming to see the plays. The actors quit.

In *Jeremy and the Enchanted Theater*, Jeremy and the talking cat Aristotle travel back in time to ancient Greece. On their way to find Zeus in his palace on Mount Olympus, they have encounters with the nine muses, a deer with silver antlers, an angry god of war and a fiery giant. Jeremy must use his wits to escape the danger. When they finally meet with the angry Zeus, the king of the gods gives them three scrolls with riddles. Mr. Magnus, with Jeremy's help, must solve the riddles before Zeus will lift the curse off the Enchanted Theater.

About the Author

Becky Citra was born and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia. She was immersed in books as a young child and visited the public library at least twice a week. From an early age, Becky loved to write, and she spent many hours writing her own series, modeled after her favorite books, like the Hardy Boys and Trixie Beldon. When she is not writing, Becky leads an active life skiing, hiking, gardening and horseback riding.

About the Writing

As a primary school teacher for many years, Becky enjoyed seeing the excitement of her students when she read them myths from ancient cultures. The stories brimmed with exciting characters, hair-raising adventures and colorful settings. Her students' enthusiasm for these myths inspired her to write the Enchanted Theater series about a boy and a cat who travel back in time to ancient Greece. The research was fascinating. She read hundreds of versions of Greek myths and found it challenging to select the ones she would use in the books. She tried to stay as true as possible to the myths and, at the same time, allow Jeremy and the cat Aristotle to have a meaningful role in the adventures. The series is a wonderful springboard to bring mythology into the primary classroom.

Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections***Prereading Ideas***

Do you think it is possible to travel in time, either into the past or the future? What kinds of things would it be helpful to know about the place you were going to if you were going to time travel?

Classroom Discussion Questions

- If you were going to travel back in time to ancient Greece, what would you take with you?
- In the book, Jeremy is separated from Aristotle (Jeremy is outside the palace gates and Aristotle is inside.) Have you ever been separated from someone you love? How did it feel?
- The gods have a feast with music and silver goblets of nectar. What kind of celebrations do you have in your family?
- If you could travel back in time, where would you choose to go?
- Describe the friendship between Aristotle and Jeremy.

Suggested Activities

- Write riddles on scrolls. Dye the paper in tea to make it look old.
- Make a time capsule. Fill a tin can with items you would take back in time or into the future.
- Compare illustrations of the Greek gods from a variety of books. Draw a picture of your favorite god.
- Survey the numbers and types of pet cats belonging to the students in your school. Make a graph.
- Research a Greek god. Show what you have learned in a poster.

Other Titles and Websites of Interest

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths by Ingri D'Aulaire and Parin D'Aulaire (Delacorte Books for Young Readers)

Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths by Bernard Evslin (Laurel Leaf)

Greek Myths for Young Children by Marcia Williams (Candlewick)

The Gods and Goddesses of Olympus by Aliko (HarperCollins)

Usborne Greek Myths for Young Children by Heather Amery (Usborne Books)

Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers

Danger at the Landings

Dog Days

Ellie's New Home

The Freezing Moon

Jeremy and the Fantastic Flying Machine

Jeremy and the Golden Fleece

Jeremy in the Underworld

Never To Be Told

Runaway

Strawberry Moon

Reviews

“Who could fail to love a series that time-travels into the Greek myths according to an ‘Enchanted Theater Rule Book’? It’s an inspired way to introduce primary school readers to classical mythology.”
—*Times Colonist*