



Jeremy and the Fantastic Flying Machine

Becky Citra

illustrated by Jessica Milne

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About the Book

In *Jeremy and the Fantastic Flying Machine*, the fourth book in the series, Jeremy and Aristotle travel back in time to the island of Crete in ancient Greece to solve the third riddle. They arrive at the palace at Knossos, where they meet the inventor Daedalus, who is known as the “crazy man” because of his attempts to fly. Jeremy and Aristotle become lost in a maze, where they narrowly escape from a monster. Jeremy saves the life of the inventor’s son and has a thrilling flight as he solves the riddle and saves 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. Becky graduated from Simon Fraser University and embarked on a twenty-five-year teaching career. Becky has always loved sharing her books with children, and in 2007 she retired from teaching in order to write full-time and visit schools and libraries. Becky brings the skills she has developed as a teacher to her school visits. 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*

Daedalus is called “the crazy man.” Why do you think people call other people names? Have you ever been hurt by name-calling?

Classroom Discussion Questions

1. How does Daedalus feel about his son Icarus? What kinds of things do you like to do with your parents?
2. Jeremy and Aristotle are lost in the maze. Have you ever been lost? How did it feel?
3. Choose an invention that you use every day (for example, a dishwasher or a computer) and imagine what your life would be like without it.
4. How did Daedalus trick the king?

Suggested Activities

- Design a maze and put a monster in the middle.
- Research the Wright brothers and other early attempts to fly. Make a model of a flying machine.
- Have your own Enchanted Theater and put on a play about one of the myths.
- Explore myths from other cultures (for example, Norse, Mayan or African).
- Write a different ending to a myth.

Other Titles and Websites of Interest

Island of the Minotaur by Sheldon Oberman (Crocodile Books)

Daedalus and the Minotaur by Priscilla Galloway (Annick Press)

Theseus and the Minotaur by Leonard Everett Fisher (Holiday House)

The Hero and the Minotaur by Robert Byrd (Dutton Children's Books)

Greek Myths for Young Children by Marcia Williams (Candlewick)

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 Enchanted Theater

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*