



# The Booklist Project

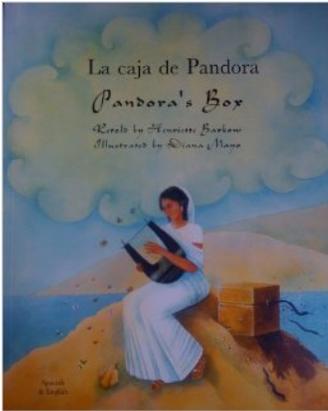
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Focus: Ancient Greek Mythology  
Developed by: Jillian Gesualdi  
SPRING, 2014

Informational Book List for English Language Learners  
Theme: Ancient Greek Mythology  
Grade Span: 3-7

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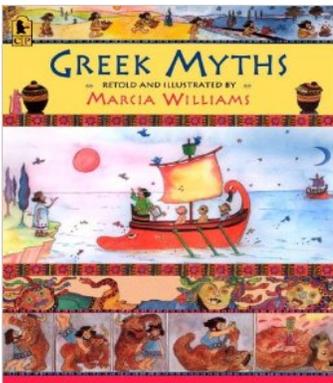
Jillian Gesualdi



**Barkow, Henriette. (January 1, 2002). *Pandora's Box*. London, UK: Mantra Lingua Publishing**

Pandora is a young woman created by Zeus and given the gifts of the Gods (one of those gifts being curiosity). She is sent to earth to live and be married to a man named Ephimetheus. On Pandora's wedding day, Zeus gives her a box which he forbids to be opened. Pandora, with her insatiable curiosity, opens the box. The box unleashes suffering, hate, jealousy, anger, pain, and all of the evils of the world. *Pandora's Box* is the perfect book to use when teaching Greek mythology to ELLs because it is designed to be a bilingual book inclusive of in-text translations in every language. From Spanish to Arabic, you can easily locate the appropriate version of this book to best fit your students. The English text is directly aligned with text in the corresponding language, making for easy reference and support on each page.

- ISBN: 978-1852698980
- Grade Level Equivalent: 4.0
- WIDA Proficiency Level: 4.0 (Expanding)
- Available Formats: Paperback, audio files
- Lesson Plans:  
<https://powersource.pearsonschoolsandcolleges.com/repository/schoolnet/isee/pdf/PandoraBoxLessonPlan.pdf>  
<http://www.classactsarts.org/program/greek-myth-readers-theatre-workshop-grades-3-5>

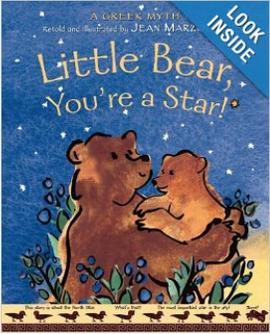


**Williams, Marcia (2011.02) *Greek Myths*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press**

Marcia Williams' precisely creative style that strays from the "norm of storytelling" is seamlessly suitable for ELLs. Williams utilizes simple language in tandem with her signature comic-strip format to retell eight classic myths that are key to understanding the essence of Greek mythology. Comic strip stories include Pandora's Box, Arion and the Dolphins, Orpheus and Eurydice, the twelve tasks of Hercules, Daedalus and Icarus, Perseus and Medusa, Theseus and the Minotaur, and Arachne vs. Athena. The concise and exciting comic-strip layout makes strong visual connections, does not overwhelm the learner with too much text all at once, and allows the student to remain focused on the main idea within each myth.

- ISBN: 978-0763653842
- Grade Level Equivalent: 3.0
- WIDA Proficiency Level: 2.5 (Beginning-Developing)
- Available Formats: Hardcover and Paperback

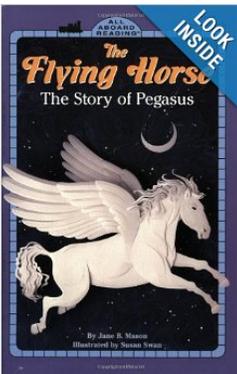
- Printable Activity Sheets: <http://www.marciawilliams.co.uk/teachers.html>
- Lesson Plans: <http://www.storyteller.net/articles/121>



**Marzollo, Jean. (September 2005) *Little Bear, You're a Star*. New York, NY: Little, Brown Young Readers Publishing**

This creative book retells the Greek myth of Callisto and Arcas, who became the constellations Big Dipper and Little Dipper. In this simplified, age-appropriate version, Zeus meets a woman named Callisto who has a baby named Arcas. Zeus' wife becomes very angry and transforms Callisto into a bear. Although Callisto has been transformed, Arcas remains human. To reunite mother and son, Zeus transforms Arcas into a bear to match his mother, and tosses the duo into the sky to become stars so that they will always be together. *Little Bear, You're a Star* is an advantageous book to use with ELLs because it contains simple words and chunking to make reading less troublesome. The book also has a surprise on each page with small birds in the footer who clarify concepts, add information, and provide cute commentary for the story as it progresses which can be very helpful in concept attainment.

- ISBN: 978-0316741353
- Grade Level Equivalent: 3.0
- WIDA Proficiency Level: 2.3 (Beginning-Developing)
- Available Formats: Paperback, Hardcover
- Similar Books: <http://thereadingtub.com/childrens-book-reviews.php?book=LITTLE-BEAR-YOURE-A-STAR-A-Greek-Myth-by-Jean-Marzollo-retold-by>
- Lesson Plans: [http://www.teachgreece.org/Study\\_Guides/Gods\\_and\\_Goddesses/](http://www.teachgreece.org/Study_Guides/Gods_and_Goddesses/)

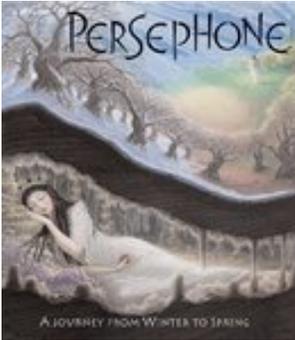


**Mason, Jane B. (July 1999) *The Flying Horse: The Story of Pegasus*. New York, NY: Grosset & Dunlap Publishing**

This heartwarming book tells a dainty version the story of Pegasus. Athena sends him from his happy home in the sky on Mount Olympus down to Earth to join forces with a mortal who is conquering all sorts of evils and dangerous enemies. Pegasus is a character loved by all and this version does not cut students short of the fantasy and magic surrounding his story. The text is chock full of fictitious, yet accurate illustrations providing ample visual support, and an overabundance of words from the primer Dolch sight word list. It also introduces complex text features to young readers such as pronunciation guides in a way that is guided and easy to understand how they are to be used (ex: (You say it like this: peg-a-sis)).

- ISBN: 978-0448419807

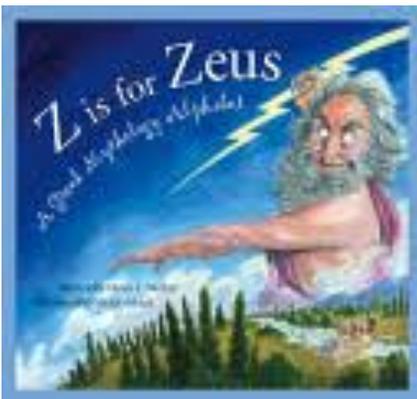
- Grade Level Equivalent: 3.0
- WIDA Proficiency Level: 2.3 (Beginning-Developing)
- Available Formats: Paperback, Hardcover
- Activity Guides: <http://www.windows2universe.org/games/games.html> , <http://www.fantasyjr.com/fairy-tale-pegasus-coloring-pages/>
- Youtube Videos: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xA8DG2uFABE&safe=active>



**Clayton, Sally Pomme. (January 15, 2009). *Persephone*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.**

A myth about how winter came to be! Persephone, a young goddess, is suddenly snatched from her warm, happy life by Hades, god of the Underworld. After she is taken, she is forced to live underground and become his bride. Persephone's mother, Demeter, goddess of Earth, is so brokenhearted that she curses the land and creates a perpetual winter so that nothing can grow until her daughter returns. Persephone is finally released from the Underworld, but there is one condition preventing her from having full freedom and it forces her to return to the Underworld for three months each year for the rest of eternity...during which time, it is winter on Earth. This captivating story puts an exciting spin on learning about the seasons and weather changes. With beautiful illustrations to support the text and tactful paragraph chunking, this book challenges expanding readers without causing frustration.

- ISBN: 978-0802853493
- Grade Level Equivalent: 3.9
- WIDA Proficiency Level: 4.0 (Expanding)
- Available Formats: Hardcover
- Lesson Plans: [http://www.ctb.com/img/pdfs/lasib\\_whywinterspring\\_4-5.pdf](http://www.ctb.com/img/pdfs/lasib_whywinterspring_4-5.pdf)

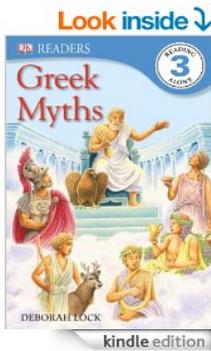


**Wilbur, Helen L. (2008.01) *Z is for Zeus: A Greek Mythology Alphabet Book*. Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press**

Contrary to what the title indicates, *Z is for Zeus: A Greek Mythology Alphabet* is everything but a book geared toward letter-recognition. This charming, informational picture book elucidates the invigorating stories, talents, and responsibilities of several prominent famous gods, goddesses, and mythical creatures inhabiting Ancient Greece. Wilbur's

text coupled with realistic, yet cartoon-like illustrations from Victor Juhasz, brings mythological entities to life while simultaneously making itself easily accessible to ESL students via visual support.

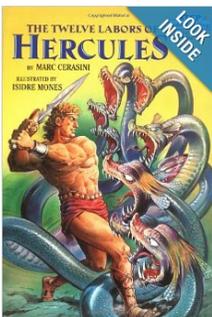
- ISBN: 978-1585363414
- Grade Level Equivalent: 7.0
- WIDA Proficiency Level: 4.5 (Expanding-Bridging)
- Available Formats: Hardcover
- Lesson Plans: <http://www.helenwilbur.com/z-is-for-zeus-a-greek-mythology-alphabet/>,  
<http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=19299>



**Lock, Deborah. (March 2012) *D.K. Readers: Greek Myths*. New York, NY: DK Publishing**

*D.K. Readers: Greek Myths* (one in a series of a multilevel reading program), takes mature Greek stories & words and places an age-appropriate, realistic twist on them, toning down the cartoon and fantasy feel a bit. The book is divided into chapters focusing on legendary figures such as Pandora, Hercules, Midas, and the immediate family of Zeus. In each chapter, morals of stories are uncovered, words are defined, and unfamiliar Greek names/words have a pronunciation guide right next to them which is highly beneficial to any developing reader. Pronunciation guides matched with integration of decodable words, chunked text, and authentic photos of Greece make this book extremely manageable for ELLs of any level.

- ISBN: 978-0756640156
- Grade Level Equivalent: 3.0
- WIDA Proficiency Level: 2.3 (Beginning-Developing)
- Available Formats: Paperback, Hardcover, Kindle ebooks
- Activity Guides: <http://springborofplibrary.wikispaces.com/Myths>
- Lesson Plans: [http://www.p12.nysed.gov/engageny/k-2-curriculum/G2\\_D6\\_Anthology.pdf](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/engageny/k-2-curriculum/G2_D6_Anthology.pdf)

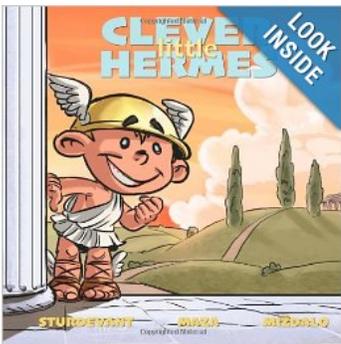


**Cerasini, Marc. (September 30, 1997). *The Twelve Labors of Hercules*. Portland, OR: Random House Books for Young Readers.**

From birth, Hercules possessed a tremendous gift of power. In his growing up years, he came to realize that his strength was unlike that of any other human, and he eventually became the strongest hero in all of Greece. However, with advantage, there always comes the surrounding envy of outsiders. A jealous King who hears of Hercules' power, creates

twelve nearly impossible tasks for him to overcome including battling fierce lions, boars, and nine-headed Hydras. This exhilarating book will keep readers on their toes as they gain exposure to the vicious beasts that inhabit many facets of Greek mythology. The colorful watercolor illustrations provide fantastic pictures clues, making difficult words easier to read and understand for ELLs and struggling readers of any type.

- ISBN: 978-0679883937
- Grade Level Equivalent: 3.5
- WIDA Proficiency Level: 2.7 (Beginning-Developing)
- Available Formats: Paperback, Hardcover
- Activity Guides/Worksheets: [http://edhelper.com/ReadingComprehension\\_Geography\\_132\\_1.html](http://edhelper.com/ReadingComprehension_Geography_132_1.html)
- Lesson Plans: <http://www.hmhco.com/~media/sites/home/education/global/pdf/scope-and-sequence/reading/journeys-common-core/Scope-and-Sequence-2014-Journeys-Gr4.pdf>, <http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Hercules-Heracles-Myth-12-Labors-Hands-on-ActivityGame-Lots-of-Busy-Fun-499046>



**Sturdevant, Wes. (October 2, 2012). *Clever Little Hermes*. Indianapolis, IN: Story and Media, LLC Publishing**

In this cute version of the classic Greek myth, we meet Hermes. Hermes is a young boy who has always been clever, witty, and likes to use his smarts to play tricks on people. However, when Hermes plays a trick on his brother Apollo, he quickly realizes that all actions have consequences and that he must learn something that he doesn't already know how to do: take responsibility for his actions. This dynamic book integrates stories about the life of Hermes, while teaching about morals, social skills, and even a little bit of multiplication computation. The fun illustrations and large, clear font gives ELLs multiple ways in by tapping into each of the multiple intelligences all at the same time.

- ISBN: 978-0615703497
- Grade Level Equivalent: 4.5
- WIDA Proficiency Level: 5.0 (Bridging)
- Available Formats: Paperback, kindle
- Lesson Plans: <http://thiskidreviewsbooks.com/2013/04/26/perfect-picture-book-friday-clever-little-hermes-by-wes-sturdevant/>



**Holub, Joan. (April 3, 2012). *Goddess Girls Series: Medusa the Mean*. New York, NY: Aladdin Publishing**

The Goddess Girls book series is modern and intriguing for readers. Readers are drawn to the storyline that is very relatable to their own lives. In this book, Medusa is the outcast at Mount Olympus Academy. With snakes in her hair and extreme jealousy over her two sisters, she just can't seem to fit in...and it shows. To solve this problem, Medusa gets herself in a sticky situation in order to get hands on an immortalizer necklace that will make her live forever, just like the other goddesses at school. Medusa quickly comes to find that jealousy and vain will only get you so far and that every action has consequences. This chapter book's charming spin on the myth of Medusa is age-appropriate, lighthearted, and creates outlets for bridging personal connections via its contemporary setting. Separation of chapters also makes the text very easy to manage. It is well worth sharing with any type of upper elementary/lower middle school student.

- ISBN: 978-1442433793
- Grade Level Equivalent: 4.0
- WIDA Proficiency Level: 4.0 (Developing)
- Available Formats: Paperback, Kindle, Library Binding (Hardcover)
- Lesson Plans: <http://www.dltk-kids.com/World/greece/m-story-medusa-and-athena.htm>  
<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/ancient-greece-crafts>

REACH. INSPIRE. CONNECT.



## The Booklist Project

A Project of the  
M.Ed. In TESL Program,



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Development  
Rhode Island College

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