



Encyclopedia of Greek and Roman Mythology (Facts on File Library of Religion and Mythology)

By Luke Roman, Monica Roman



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Greek and Roman mythology has fascinated people for more than two millennia, and its influence on cultures throughout Europe, America, North Africa, and the Middle East attests to the universal appeal of the stories. This title examines the best-known figures of Greek and Roman mythology together with the great works of classic literature.



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- Sales Rank: #3071824 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Facts on File
- Published on: 2010-03-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.20" h x 7.30" w x 9.30" l, 2.35 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 548 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—This title's summaries, details on major mythological figures, and engaging commentary on important works will allow students to appreciate the topic “in light of ancient literature and fine art.” In this effort, they have succeeded brilliantly. After a brief introduction surveying the scope of the subject, the core of the work is comprised of alphabetically arranged entries from Achelous to Zeus. Entries vary in length from a short paragraph on lesser-known subjects to several pages on classic texts and monumental gods and heroes. What distinguishes this volume is its shift in focus away from the exploits of the Olympians to ancient authors and literature. While only a handful of black-and-white images dot the landscape, this work will be a worthy addition to collections.*Brian Odom, Pelham Public Library, AL*

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From [Booklist](#)

Luke Roman (classics, Memorial University, Canada) and Monica Roman (MA, art history) have approached mythology “in the light of ancient literature and fine art, rather than presenting myth as a fossilized set of stories abstracted from the multiple contexts of their telling.” The result is a useful resource with A–Z entries of a few lines to several pages and liberal cross-references as well as an index. The selected bibliography is broken down topically and includes a section of online resources that students at all levels should find helpful. The entries cover the standard mythological characters as well as major poets and playwrights. Longer articles cover epics like *The Iliad* and *The Aeneid*, dramas like *The Orestia*, and longer poems like *Metamorphoses*. These entries contain a synopsis of the work (section by section in the case of longer works) and a commentary. Entries for mythological figures discuss various versions of the myths and refer to the major sources. They also sometimes discuss the figure’s representation in works of art. The book is illustrated both with black-and-white photographs of Greek and Roman artwork, statuary, and pottery and later artwork inspired by classical mythology. The text may be a little dense for some students doing their mythology assignments, but AP world literature students and college students studying world literature should be able to use it with no trouble. The volume is recommended for public libraries, especially those with mythology collections or that serve college students, and for college libraries with introductory courses in classical literature in translation. It will be very useful for students who need something less extensive than Gale’s *Classical and Medieval Criticism* and something more extensive than a general encyclopedia entry. Also available as an e-book. --Kathleen Stipek

Users Review

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