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**Title:** “Could Be Worse!”

**By:** James Stevenson

**A *New York Times* Outstanding Book of the Year**

**A Reading Rainbow Review Book**

**First Line:** “At Grandpa’s house things were always the same.”

**Last Line:** “Could be worse!”

**Repeating Line:** “Could be worse!”

**Vocabulary:** splinter, abominable, marmalade, ostrich, enormous, gigantic, lobster, grip, squid, squirted, escaped, hitched

**Onomatopoeia:** RUMBLE

**Hyphenated Words:** something-or-other

**Back Cover:** To Mary Ann and Louie, Grandpa is pretty boring. No matter what happens, he always says the same thing: “Could be worse.” The dog ate the sofa cushion? “Could be worse.” The bike has a flat? “Could be worse.” Then one day he surprises them with a story so amazing, and so incredible, there’s only one thing they can say about it – and they do!

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**Title:** Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs!

**Author:** Kathleen V. Kudlinski

**Illustated by:** S.D. Schindler

**First Line:** “Long, long ago, before people knew anything about dinosaurs, giant bones were found in China.”

**Last Line:** “When you grow up, you may be the scientist who makes us all say, “Boy, were we wrong about dinosaurs!”

**Vocabulary:** enormous, fossil, dragons, Iguanodon, waddle, clumsily, tendons, Apatosaurus, Tyrannosaurus, bask, scaly, pigeons, rooster, hatched, comet, asteroid, tertiary, cretaceous, tidal waves, dust cloud, acid rain

**Similes:** “The sizes and shapes of their leg bones seem to show that some were as fast and graceful as deer.”

**Hyphenated Words:** cold-blooded, warm-blooded, meat-eating, x-rays, long-ago

**Booklist:** “Intelligently designed and imaginatively conceived, the artwork makes the text more understandable and the whole book more beautiful.”

**Inside Front Cover:** The ancient Chinese thought dinosaurs were magical dragons. Boy, were they wrong! Scientists thought they could only float on water since they were so big. They were wrong, too! Are we right about dinosaurs yet? Even today, once common ideas about dinosaurs are changing as new discoveries are made, Kathleen V. Kudlinski and S. D. Schindler team up to explore how the many theories about these fascinating creatures – sometimes right and sometimes wrong – were formed, and how our ideas of today may someday seem as silly as those of the ancient Chinese. Readers may find that they will be the scientists of tomorrow who say, “Boy, were we wrong about dinosaurs!”

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**Title:** My Father’s Dragon

**By:** Ruth Stiles Gannett

**Illustrated by:** Ruth Chrisman Gannett

**A Newberry Honor Book**

**An ALA Notable Book**

**First Line:** “One cold rainy day when my father was a little boy, he met an old alley cat on his street.”

**Last Line:** “But my father and the dragon knew that nothing in the world would ever make them go back to Wild Island.”

**Contents:**

1. My Father Meets the Cat
2. My Father Runs Away
3. My Father Finds the Island
4. My Father Finds the River
5. My Father Meets Some Tigers
6. My Father Meets A Rhinoceros
7. My Father Meets A Lion
8. My Father Meets A Gorilla
9. My Father Makes A Bridge
10. My Father Finds the Dragon

**Vocabulary:**

 **(Chapter 1)** drippy, obliged, saucer, apologized, rude, sneaked, traveler, port, inhabited, weep

**(Chapter 2)** inconvenient, miserable, rescue, docks, knapsack, compass, pantry, watchman, distract, hold

**(Chapter 3)** cargo, port, merchant, punctual, tangerine, leap, rumbling

**(Chapter 4)** wahoo, guarded, clump, risk, muttering, accident, tortoises, wild boars, solemn, boulders, recent, invasion, extraordinary, investigation, appearance, disappearance, seriously, unreliable, retire, whereupon, trundled

**(Chapter 5)** gloomy, dense, ferns, swampy, oozy, mucky, wade, compass, clumped, trespassing, explorer, contradict, scarce, growled, fond

**(Chapter 6)** clearing, mahogany, suspicious, tusk, squirmed, pearly white, dab, violently, hoofsteps, clearing, invasion, upsetting

**(Chapter 7)** blackberrying, crept, peered, prancing, snarled, underbrush, glaring, skidded, dreadful, allowance, forelock, snarls, grooming

**(Chapter 8)** banyan, crossroads, lioness, glance, occupied, dignified, judged, enormous, fierce, blast, dashed, winked, magnifying glasses, miraculous, frantically, mangroves

**(Chapter 9)** summon, crank, disorderly conduct, despite, dusk, craving, delicious, bank

**(Chapter 10)** furious, raging, seething, ranting, screeching, irate, stampeded, jackknife, steady, dependable, somersault, soared, bellowing, feast

**Hyphenated Words:**

**(Chapter 2)** low-flying, crossing-the-river, gold-colored, twenty-five, gang-plank

**(Chapter 3)** lumpy-like, thirty-one

**(Chapter 4)** meal-times

**(Chapter 6)** yellow-gray

**(Chapter 8)** near-by

***The New Yorker –***“Here is a real delight – a nonsense tale in which the ingenuity of the humor and the logic of the nonsense are irresistible. The text and decorative and amusing black-and-white pictures tell the story of a small boy’s trip to rescue on overworked dragon from a jungle island bristling with wild beasts.”

***Saturday Review –*** “This is, without question, the funniest book that we have seen for a month of Sundays. It is also an exciting adventure story.”

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**Title:** Ancient Rome and Pompeii

**Authors:** Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce

**Illustrator:** Sal Murdocca

**First Line:** “The story of Rome begins with a legend.”

**Last Line:** “They look like men who could rule an empire.”

**Contents:**

Chapter 1: Ancient Rome

Chapter 2: The Eternal City

Chapter 3: The Roman Military

Chapter 4: Uniting the Empire

Chapter 5: Death in Pompeii

Chapter 6: Daily Life in a Roman Town

Chapter 7: End of the Empire

**Vocabulary:**

**Chapter 1:** legend, abandoned, settlements, village, marshes, tribes, region, conquer, republic, consuls, senators, senate, citizens, assemblies, charity, resented, consuls

**Chapter 2:** obeyed, arches, domes, bridges, tunnels, concrete, chiseled, aqueducts, channels, terra-cotta, dome, bronze, grazed, conducted, exquisite, mosaics, hypocausts, fragrant, trident

**Chapter 3:** trumpets, glimpse, strode, symbols, identifying, defeated, bedraggled, prisoners, shuffled, chariot, prancing, triumph, peak, empire, loyalty, cassis (helmet), lorica segmentata (armor), cingulum (belt), scutum (shield), gladius (sword), caligae (sandals), brutal, gear, lugging, victory, thrust, javelin, sling, drilled, weapons, trenches, testudo, tortoise formation, hurled, combat, flee, siege, surrounds, ramps, raged, clambered, hunks, fiery, onagri (catapults), flamethrowers, ballista (crossbow)

**Chapter 4:** rebelled, disputes, obeyed, province, citizenship “*Civis Romanus sum”* (I am a Roman citizen), Latin (language Romans spoke), renowned, memorable, treacherous, remained, defeat, gasped, plunged, chaos, avenged, seized, emperor, proclaimed, struggle, conquered, rampaged, reinforcements, captured, heaps, dissolved, consul, (Incitatus – horse), poisoned, immune, collapse, designed, throne

**Chapter 5:** slopes, overlooking, hitched, millstone, forum, unbolted, chatted, tremors, dormant, eyewitness, horror, enormous, Italian umbrella pine tree, loomed, pumice, clogged, collapse, sulfurous gas, frantically, flee, staggered, rubble, surge, ceased

**Chapter 6:** slabs, destroyed, concluded, archaeologist, excavation, compressed, decayed, victims, erupted, gutters, chariots, insulae, shrines, slits, atrium, villa, braziers, murals, depicted, mythological, drifted, exchanged, togas, tragedies, comedies, gladiators, riots, knucklebones, tunics, linen, stola, adorned, coiled, cosmetics, bullae

**Chapter 7:** Latin, marvel, wisdom

**Places:**

**Chapter 1:** Tiber (river), Rome (Eternal City), Italy, Austria, France, Britain, North Africa, Middle East, Oxford, U.K., Egypt

**Chapter 2:** Colosseum, amphitheater, football stadium, (Nimes, France), Pantheon, temple, Forum Romanum, Baths of Caracalla

**Chapter 3:** Avaricum, Gaul

**Chapter 4:** Roman Forum, Via Appia (famous road begun in 312 BC), Via Salaria (Salt Road) one of the first roads, Carthage, Alps

**Chapter 5:** Pompeii, Mt. Vesuvius

**Chapter 6:** Herculaneum, Garden of the Fugitives, House of Vettii, Herculaneum, amphitheater,

**People:**

**Chapter 1:** Mars, Romulus, Remus, King Tarquin, Cicero, emperors, patricians, plebeians, slaves, Emperor Marcus Aurelius

Egyptians, Jews, Greeks, Germans, Celts, Syrians

**Chapter 2:** architects, Emperor Titus, gladiators, Orators,Severus, Marcus

**Chapter 3:** Emperor Trajan, Dacians, emperor, legions, centuries, centurions

**Chapter 4:** Hannibal (general from Carthage), Julius Caesar (Roman general), Brutus, Cassius, Octavian (first emperor of the Roman Empire), Octavian *princeps* (first citizen), Augustus (respected one), Cleopatra (queen of Egypt), Marc Antony, Boudicca (queen of Iceni, a tribe in Britain), Caligula, Nero, Agrippina (Nero’s mother), Claudius (Nero’s husband)

**Chapter 5:** Pliny the Younger, Pliny the Elder

**Chapter 6:** Giuseppe Fiorelli, Jupiter, Juno, Mars, Ceres, Neptune, Venus, Diana, Vesta, Mercury, Vulcan

**Hyphenated Words:**

**Chapter 2:** terra-cotta, twenty-four, hand-to-hand

**Chapter 3:** standard-bearers, battle-hardened, twelve-foot

**Chapter 4:** thirty-seven, great-nephew, twenty-nine

**Chapter 5:** rotten-egg

**Saying: Chapter 4: Page 57:** “all roads lead to Rome.”

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**Title:** Ancient Greece and the Olympics – A Nonfiction Companion to Magic Tree house #16: Hour of the Olympics

**Authors:** Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce

**Illustrator:** Sal Murdocca

**First Line:** “Greece is a small country that lies on the Mediterranean Sea.”

**Last Line:** “But it’s all worth it for the brilliant events you will see.”

**Contents:**

Ancient Greece

Religion

Daily Life in Ancient Greece

The Culture of Ancient Greece

Early Olympics

Olympic Grounds

Let the Games Begin!

The Olympics Today

**Vocabulary:**

**Chapter 1:**  grapevines, ruins, ancient, rival, democracy, warriors, customs

**Chapter 2:** myths, ambrosia, altars, ivory, festival, processions, hurled, enemies, rustled, distracted, chattering, trident, drowning, foam, charming, resist, dove, myrtle, shield, wisdom, refused, tamed, chariot, lyre, laurel (tree)

**Chapter 3:** stalls, chat, reeds, couches, courtyard, porridge, figs, balcony, tunic, chitons, peplos,knucklebones, shepherds, olive trees

**Chapter 4:** culture, philosophers, eclipse, oath, chorus, The Iliad, The Odyssey, alphabet (comes from two letters of the Greek alphabet…alpha and beta), agkura (anchor), biblia (bible), klima (climate), demokratia (democracy), drama (drama), heros (hero), mouseion (museum), olympikos (olympics), schole (school), theatron (theater), zone (zone), tunics

**Chapter 5:** stadium, stade, cloaks, wands, shepherds, athlete, obey, compete, boldly, barrier, congratulate, tangled, truce, rhythm, cloaks, laurel wreaths, procession

**Chapter 6:** strode, stalls, shrines, sacrifices, procession, oxen, Statue of Zeus, huge, awe, gazed, ivory, scattered

**Chapter 7:** oath, Zeus of the Oaths (statue), trumpets, grooves, stade, sprinted, diaulos, dolichos, armor, bronze, forbidden, cast, lumbered, javelin, spear, discus, Frisbee, military, wrestling, combat, aryballos (container), strigils, pentathlon, discus, javelin, penta (five), pankration, brutal, hippos (horse), chariots, saddles, stirrups, announced, tense, decorated, olive wreath, journey, greeted, agora, myth, victories, wedges, escape, skill, grace, bravery

**Chapter 8:** remained, pentathlon, spectacular, incredible, scorched, soaked, deafened, constant, brilliant

**Places:**

**Chapter 1:** Mediterranean Sea, Athens, Sparta, olive groves

**Chapter 2:** Olympus, Temple of Hephaestus in Athens

**Chapter 3:** Acropolis, agora (marketplace), gymnasium, symposia

**Chapter 4:** Academy, Parthenon (temple of Athena), Lincoln Memorial, amphitheaters, Theater at Epidaurus

**Chapter 5:** Elis

**Chapter 6:** Altis (grove of trees), Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, Ruins of Phidia’s workshop

**Chapter 7:** hippodrome

**People:**

**Chapter 1:** Athena (goddess of wisdom), Athenians

**Chapter 2:** Zeus (ruler of the gods), Atlas (held up the sky), Hera (Zeus’s wife), Echo, Poseidon (god of the seas and Zeus’s brother), Aphrodite (goddess of Love and Beauty), Athena (Zeus’s daughter), Phoebus Apollo (Zeus’s son)

**Chapter 3:** Artemis

**Chapter 4:** Socrates (philosopher), Plato (student of Socrates), Hippocrates (famous Greek doctor), architects, Homer (Greek Poet), Trojans, Odysseus

**Chapter 5:** Zeus, Kallipateira

**Chapter 6:** Phidias

**Chapter 7:** heralds (men who announced the winners), Milo of Croton – the Wrestler, Diagoras of Rhodes – the Boxer

**Chapter 8:** Epictetus (philosopher)

**Hyphenated Words:**

**Chapter 1:** city-states (poleis)

**Chapter 2:** harp-like

**Chapter 3:** polished-bronze

**Chapter 7:** long-distance, hand-to-hand, horse-racing

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**Title:** If I Were A Kid in Ancient Rome

**Carus Publishing Company**

**Table of Contents:**

Gifts from the Romans

At Home in Rome

Bathing…with Friends?

The World of Rome

Want to Play Latrunculi?

Monkeys & Magpies

What’s the Cena?

Reading & Writing the Roman Way

A Visit to Rome

The Greatest Show in Rome

**Glossary:**

Abacus, amphitheater, aqueducts, archaeologists, atrium, bulla, Caesar, cena, circus maximus, colosseum, comitium, domus, dormice, emperor, forica forum, gladiator, Grammaticus, gymnasium, jentaculum, latrunculi, libra, ludus, magister, mille passus, pavimentum, ped, pedagogus, prandium, senator, stylus, terra-cotta, thermae, uncial, unctorium, via sacra, villa

**Book Jacket:** If YOU were a kid in the ancient world, everything would be different – or WOULD it? Imagine a crowded city filled with shouting salesmen and street musicians. Sound like a city near you? It isn’t. This busy city is ancient Rome. If you lived there, what would your life be like? As a Roman kid, you would take baths in public with all your neighbors. At school, you would add and subtract letters instead of the numbers we use today. If that sounds tough, don’t worry! You’d have plenty of fun, too. You could relax with your pet monkey and even go bowling with friends. Take a step back in time and discover how kids (like you) lived in *If I Were a Kid in Ancient Rome*.

**Book of Book:** If YOU were a kid in the ancient world, everything would be different – or WOULD it? Kids today share many of the same experiences as kids who lived in the ancient world – even though thousands of years have gone by. If YOU were a kid living in ancient Rome…Would you go to school or gym class? What would you eat for breakfast and dinner? What toys would you play with? What “house rules” would your parents expect you to obey? Where would you hang out with friends? *If I were a Kid in Ancient Rome* offers a fascinating look at the daily life of children growing up many years ago – and how it compares to life today.

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**Title:** If I Were A Kid in Ancient Greece

**Carus Publishing Company**

**Table of Contents:**

Gifts from the Greeks

House Rules

Bronze Fly & Sheep Bones

School Days

Gym Class

Let’s Go to the Games!

The World of Greece

An Ancient Hangout

Meet the Greek Gods

Breakfast, Lunch, and Deipnon

**Glossary:**

Abacus, acropolis, agoge, agora, akratisma, archaeologist, Ariston, astragalol, aulos, city-state, deipnon, democracy, drachma, grammatistes, hippodrome, hysplex, Iliand and Odyssey, kitharistes, lyre, marathon, mosaics, obol, Olympia, Olympics, paidagogos, paidotribes, palaestra, pankration, Parthenon, pentathlon, strigil, tunic

**Book Jacket:**

If YOU were a kid in the ancient world, everything would be different – or WOULD it? Imagine a crowded city filled with shouting salesmen and street musicians. Sound like a city near you? It isn’t. This busy city is in ancient Greece. If you lived there, what would your life be like? As a Greek kid, you would obey your parents without arguing. At school, you would memorize long poems and spend hours eacy day practicing sports. If that sounds tough, don’t worry! You’d have plenty of fun, too. You could play with board games and yo-yos and even go to the Olympic Games. Take a step back in time and discover how kids (like you) lived in *If I Were a Kid in* *Ancient Greece.*

**Back of Book:** If YOU were a kid in the ancient world, everything would be different – or WOULD it? Kids today share many of the same experiences as kids who lived in the ancient world – even though thousands of years have gone by, If YOU were a kid living in ancient Greece…Would you go to school or gym class? What would you eat for breakfast and dinner? What toys would you play with? What “house rules” would your parents expect you to obey? Where would you hang out with friends? *If I Were a Kid in Ancient Greece* offers a fascinating look at the daily life of children growing up many years ago – and how it compares to life today.

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**Title:** Greek Myths

**Usborne Publishing**

**Retold by:** Heather Amery

**Illustrated by:** Linda Edwards

**Designed by:** Amanda Barlow

**Edited by:** Jenny Tyler

**Contents:**

About the Greek Myths

The Gift of Fire

Pandora’s Box

Persephone and the Seasons

The Story of Arachne

The Many Tasks of Heracles

Echo and Narcissus

Daedalus and Icarus

Bellerophon and the Flying Horse

Jason and the Golden Fleece

King Midas

The Adventures of Perseus

The Chariot of the Sun

The Adventures of Odysseus

Theseus and the Minotaur

Pygmalion and His Wife

Eros and Psyche

Greek Names

**About the Greek Myths – Vocabulary:** palaces, towering, peaks, Mount Olympus, invisible, spiteful, mortals, extraordinary, wicked, daring, richly, fascinating

**The Gift of Fire – First Line:** “Long, long ago and far away the Greek gods and goddesses lived in palaces among the towering peaks of the great Mount Olympus.”

**Last Line:** “He had to stay there

**Vocabulary:** Zeus, thunderbolts, Hera, roaming, Epimetheus, Prometheus, breathed, charcoal, palace, grateful, rage, liver

**Simile –** “he shouted in a voice like thunder”

**Pandora’s Box – First Line:** “Zeus was very angry with the people who were so pleased with the gift of fire from Prometheus.”

**Vocabulary:** Pandora, reward, bound, gazed, curious, jewels, precious, peek, frowning, begged, refused, crept, stared, wailing, fluttered, despair

**Last Line:** “People would now suffer all kinds of terrible things, but because they had hope, they would never despair.”

**Persephone and the Seasons – First Line:** “One bright, sunny morning, the goddess Demeter said goodbye to her daughter Persephone.”

**Last Line:** “Then Demeter was happy and it was spring again.”

**Vocabulary:** Demeter, Persephone, ripened, harvests, chariot, Hades, thundered, cleft, flaming torch, haggard, persuade, politely, growled, begged, croaked, pomegranate, thirsty, swallowed, Underworld, sobbed

**The Story of Arachne – First Line:** “Arachne sat at her loom, weaving brilliant threads into wonderful patterns.”

**Last Line:** “You may see them in dusty corners or sparkling with dew in the early morning.”

**Vocabulary:** loom, weaving, brilliant, village, conceited, Athene, boasted, loom, scurried, competition, ripped, horror, shriveled, blob, descendants, sparkling, dew

**The Many Tasks of Heracles – First Line:** “The great god Zeus had a son, called Heracles.”

**Last Line:** “Go to King Eurystheus at Tiryns,” said a priestess, “and work for him as a slave, doing whatever tasks he gives you.”

**Vocabulary:** Hercales, immensely, slithering, cradle, strangled, gurgling, Hera, lute, Megara, King Creon, deeds, horrified, King Eurysteus at Tiryns, priestess

***The Man-Eating Lion* – First Line:** “King Eurystheus gave Heracles the worst tasks he could think of.”

**Last Line: “**It saved his life many times.”

**Vocabulary:** terrorizing, hurled, spear, slash, despair, stunned slunk, strangled, trophies, cloak, pierce

***The Nine-Headed Hydra –* First Line:** “Your next task, slave,” King Eurystheus said to Heracles, “is to kill the Hydra which lives in the Argos marshes.”

**Last Line:** “These may be useful one day,” he said to Iolaus, and they rode back to King Eurystheus for Heracles’s third task.”

**Vocabulary:** Hydra, marshes, stinking, swamps, Iolaus, lair, spat, dipped, task

***The Stag with Golden Antlers –* First Line:** “You must bring me the stag with golden antlers, but you must not hurt it in any way.”

**Last Line:** “Then he released it safely in the woods.”

**Vocabulary:** stag, antlers, commanded, massive, journey, startled, trudged

***The Huge Wild Boar –* First Line:** “The King tried hard to think of an even more difficult task for Heracles.”

**Last Line:** The minute the King saw the boar he was so frightened, he jumped back into his brass pot again.”

**Vocabulary:** boar, Arcadia, savage, centaur, immense, clumsily, startled, blundered, snowdrift, leapt, heaving, wearily

***The Augean Stables –* First Line:** “When Eurystheus had overcome his fright, he summoned Heracles.”

**Last Line:** He went away to think of something even more difficult for Heracles to do.

**Vocabulary:** stables, heaps, channel, torrent, gushed, sweet-smelling, clever, task

***The Stymphalian Birds –* First Line:** “These birds live in Arcadia and they eat people,” said King Eurystheus.

**Last Line:** “Heracles glared angrily at him but said nothing.”

**Vocabulary:** brass, journey, island, wade, reeds, glared

***The Great Bull of Crete –* First Line:** “King Eurystheus thought the next task he gave to Heracles would take him away for a long time.”

**Last Line:** “King Eurystheus was so frightened when he saw the bull, he jumped into his brass pot again.”

**Vocabulary:** Crete, fire-breathing, crew, cliffs, ashore, King Minos, snorting nostrils, standstill

***The Man-Eating Horses –* First Line:** “When King Eurystheus climbed out of his pot, he said to Heracles, “Your next task is to go to King Diomedes and bring back his four wild horses.”

**Last Line:** “Heracles led them out of the palace and set them free in the mountains.”

**Vocabulary:** arrived, suspicious, grand, dawn, crept, stables, beam, fierce, docile, horrid

***The Amazon Queen’s Belt –* First Line:** “My daughter, “ King Eurystheus said to Heracles, “wants the belt Queen Hippolyta always wears around her waist.”

**Last Line:** “Eurystheus’s daughter was delighted with the belt, but the King growled at Heracles, “You have more tasks to do.”

**Vocabulary:** Queen Hippolyta, Amazons, warriors, Black Sea, furious, snatching, managed, precious, delighted, growled

***The Cattle of Geryon –* First Line:** “Go to King Geryon, the three-headed ogre, and bring his cattle back here,” ordered King Eurystheus.”

**Last Line:** “When, many weeks later, Heracles drove King Geryon’s cattle into the palace yard, King Eurystheus took no notice of the cattle and just complained that Heracles had been away far too long.”

**Vocabulary:** ogre, trudging, boldness, drifted, leapt, snarling, instantly

***The Golden Apples –* First Line:** “You must now bring me three golden apples from the Tree of Hesperides,” King Eurystheus commanded Heracles.

**Last Line:** “When he was free, Heracles picked up the three golden apples, said goodbye to Atlas, and hurried back to King Eurystheus.”

**Vocabulary:** sacred, grove, Atlas, groaning, crept, coiled, glared, suspected, cloak

***Guard Dog of the Underworld –* First Line:** “Your last task is the most difficult of all,” King Eurystheus said to Heracles.”

**Last Line:** “Heracles stayed in his palace for a while before leaving for many more adventures.”

**Vocabulary:** Cerebus, River Styx, Charon, refused, grumpily, ferry, misty, drifting, crouched, leapt, wrestled, exhausted

**Echo and Narcissus – First Line:** “Echo was a wood nymph who could never stop talking.”

**Last Line:** “It is called a narcissus.”

**Vocabulary:** nymph, strolled, chattering, giggling, irritated, prattling, protest, horrified, stumbled, irritated, punish, vain, gaze, reflection, ripples, rejected, narcissus

**Daedalus and Icarus – First Line:** “Minos, the King of Crete, was a very cruel, wicked man.”

**Last Line:** “Very sadly, he flew on and landed safely in Sicily.”

**Vocabulary:** cruel, wicked, sculptor, Daedalus, Icarus, Knossos, cellars, labyrinth, glide, swooped, soared, horror, plummeted, Sicily

**Bellerophon and the Flying Horse – First Line:** “Prince Bellerophon was exiled from his own country, but lived happily in the court of King Proteus.”

**Last Line:** “No one would go near a man who had made Zeus so angry.”

**Vocabulary:** exiled, King Proteus, insulted, Iobates, King of Lycia, good-natured, Chimaera, Pegasus, bridle, vanished, dodged, spat, delighted, conceited, astride, fling

**Jason and the Golden Fleece – First Line:** “Jason was only a baby when his wicked Uncle Pelias stole his father’s kingdom.”

**Last Line:** “Then he carefully fastened the magic oak branch to the front of The Argo.”

**Vocabulary:** centaur, Cheiron, demand, city of Iolcus, croaked, swirling, dismay, sandals, vanished, Hera, strode, Colchis, fierce, serpent, boat-builder, stout, mast

***The Argo Set Sail –* First Line:** “When news of Jason’s voyage spread, princes, brave adventurers, the sons of gods and many others wanted to join the crew.”

**Last Line:** “But they fought bravely and sailed safely on.”

**Vocabulary:** Orpheus, lyre, Atalanta, huntress, ankles, Argonauts, shore, hoisted, briskly, bloodthirsty

***The Harpies –* First Line:** “Nearing the entrance to the Black Sea, the Argonauts stopped at an island to ask King Phineus for his advice on the dangers to come.”

**Last Line:** “Some Harpies escaped but the twin sons of the North Wind flew after them, chasing them across the sea so that they never returned.”

**Vocabulary:** entrance, Argonauts, King Phineus, croaked, Harpies, hideous, vultures

***The Clashing Rocks –* First Line:** “While the Argonauts waited for the twins to come back, they prepared a great feast for King Phineus.”

**Last Line:** “At last, they reached the river which led to Colchis and moored for the night.”

**Vocabulary:** feast, grateful, voyage, beware, towering, cliffs, channel, flung, clashed, thunderous, ports, Colchis, moored

***Fire-Breathing Bulls and Dragons’ Teeth –* First Line:** “Next morning, Jason and two friends set off for the magnificent palace of King Aeetes.”

**Last Line:** “She was afraid her father would suspect she had helped Jason.”

**Vocabulary:** magnificent, Aeetes, harshly, claim, harness, fire-breathing, Medea, crept, herbs, ointment, chanting, strode, bellowing, bronze, hoofs, scorched, stroking, hurled, suspect

***The Golden Fleece –* First Line:** “That night Medea crept out of the palace and ran down to the river where the Argonauts were sleeping on The Argo.”

**Last Line:** “She inherited the throne of Corinth, and Jason became king there too, ruling both kingdoms wisely and well.”

**Vocabulary:** reeds, coiled, serpent, hissed, fangs, Pelias, inherited Corinth

**King Midas – First Line:** “King Midas was a foolish, greedy king but he could also be kind and generous.”

**Last Line:** “Everyone now knew King Midas’s secret and that he was a very foolish man.”

**Vocabulary:** greedy, Silenus, satyr, Dionysus, granted, vanished, dashed, pillars, ornaments, statue, Apollo, Pan, competition, lyre, pipes, mournful, cloak, barber, desperately, bear, reeds, rustled

**The Adventures of Perseus – First Line:** “Blown by the wind, a huge wooden chest floated along on the sea and gently beached on the island of Seriphos.”

**Last Line:** “I want you to bring me the head of Medusa, the Gorgon.”

**Vocabulary:** astonished, King Acrisius, Danae, Perseus, adrift, Polydectes, Medusa, the Gorgon

***The Head of Medusa –* First Line:** “Polydectes knew very well that many men had tried to kill Medusa, but failed.”

**Last Line:** “He opened his bag, stuffed the head in, and tied it up tightly with cord.”

**Vocabulary:** Polydectes, Medusa, hideous, refuse, challenge, shield, Hermes, invisible, sickle, strode, shivered, cord

***Andromeda –* First Line:** “Slinging the bag over his shoulder, Perseus flew away from the land, over the sea to a distant southern shore.”

**Last Line:** “He married Andromeda and they were happy for many years.”

**Vocabulary:** slinging, distant, ledge, swooped, Andromeda, boasted, nymphs, Poseidon, sacrificing, Perseus, gazed, dazzled, glanced, gaping, snake-like, soared, slashing, writhing, King Cepheus, Seriphos, overjoyed, confront, astonished

***The Prophecy –* First Line:** “Perseus was a wonderful athlete who excelled at discus throwing, wrestling, running and throwing the javelin and spear.”

**Last Line:** “The prophecy had come true: King Acrisius was killed by his own grandson.”

**Vocabulary:** athlete, excelled, discus, javelin, spear, stadium, gust, King Acrisius

**The Chariot of the Sun – First Line:** “At dawn every morning, the god Helios began his journey across the sky from the east.”

**Last Line:** “Helios never, ever let anyone drive his sun chariot again.”

**Vocabulary:** dawn, Helios, journey, chariot, horizon, dusk, Phaethon, steadily, harness, reins, Milky Way, terrified, heaved, plunged, scorched, wept, weeping willows

**The Adventures of Odysseus – First Line:** “Odysseus sat slumped on the beach and stared out across the shimmering sea.”

**Last Line:** “I have an idea,” said Odysseus, and he told them his plan.

**Vocabulary:** slumped, stared, shimmering, Troy, grumbling, growled, groaned, beloved, Penelope, Telemachus, Ithaca, Paris, Trojan prince, captured, Helen, fleet, Menelaus, fierce, restless

***The Wooden Horse –* First Line:** “For many days, the Trojans watched from the tops of their city walls as the Greeks collected huge piles of wood on the beach.”

**Last Line:** “When the wind dropped, they had to row until they were too tired to go on.”

**Vocabulary:** Trojans, vanished, enormous, shouted, rushed, stared, tapped, Athene, masses, celebrate, creaked, whispered, slid, weapons, ruined

***Cyclops, the One-Eyed Giant –* First Line:** “After many months, Odysseus and his men reached an island where they landed to find food and water.”

**Last Line:** “Poseidon promised he would punish them.”

**Vocabulary:** cliff, cave, explore, peered, reply, enormous, thunderous, sprang, Cyclops, herded, flock, massive, roared, Ithaca, dashed, snoring, stumbled, muttering, escape, trotted, stroked, clinging, underneath, rage, hurled, Poseidon, begged, revenge

***A Bag of Winds –* First Line:** “Odysseus and his men sailed on and landed on another island.”

**Last Line:** “There was nothing they could do to stop it.”

**Vocabulary:** King Aeolus, welcomed, leather, Ithaca, hoisted, wafted, curious

***Circe’s Magic –* First Line:** “The ship raced on and, at last, reached another island.”

**Last Line:** “She gave him food and water for the voyage, and warned him of the many dangers that were ahead of him.”

**Vocabulary:** raced, Eurylochus, Circe, feast, waved, magic wand, instantly, grunting, startled, Hermes, potion, tapped, terrified, commanded, guarding, sighed, voyage

***The Sirens –* First Line:** “Odysseus’s ship sailed on and soon came to a very rocky island.”

**Last Line:** “Then they untied Odysseus’s ropes and took the wax out of their ears.”

**Vocabulary:** Sirens, sea nymphs, enchanting, lured, wrecked, drowned, warned, mast, beeswax, furious, struggled, rowed, steadily

***Scylla and Charybdis –* First Line:** “Odysseus and his men sailed on until, in front of them, they saw towering cliffs with a narrow channel between them.”

**Last Line:** The wind blew, filling the big sail, and the tired crew could rest.”

**Vocabulary:** towering, cliffs, channel, whirlpool, mass, swirling, Charybdis, steered, Scylla, loom, snatched

***The Sacred Cattle –* First Line:** “The ship soon reached another island.”

**Last Line:** “Helios found out what they’d done and was really angry.”

**Vocabulary:** warned, Helios, punish

***Storm and Shipwreck –* First Line:** “After a week on the island, Odysseus and his crew put to sea again.”

**Last Line:** “The wind and waves pushed the mast along until, after nine days, it washed up on a beautiful island.”

**Vocabulary:** crashed, struggled, mast, snapped, clung

***The Goddess Calypso –* First Line:** “The island was ruled by the goddess Calypso.”

**Last Line:** “Stay here tonight and tomorrow one of my ships will take you home.”

**Vocabulary:** enchanted, begged, Ithaca, wanderer, avenge, wreckage, despair, King Alcinous, greeted

***Home at Last –* First Line:** “At dawn, Odysseus boarded a ship, lay down and fell asleep.”

**Last Line:** “Odysseus quietly left the room.”

**Vocabulary:** dawn, ashore, revenge, rose, appeared, nobles, Telemachus, disguise, beggar, swineherd’s, hut, nobles, weaving, shambled, growled

***The Test of Strength –* First Line:** “When the nobles came into the hall the next morning, Odysseus was there waiting for them.”

**Last Line:** “And you’ll never believe all the adventures I have to tell you and my brave son Telemachus about.”

**Vocabulary:** nobles, grumbling, bow, axes, eager, struggled, jeered, stiff, slotted, gasped, panic, cellar, outnumbered, pillar

**Theseus and the Minotaur – First Line:** “The Minotaur was a terrible monster, which lived in a maze, called the Labyrinth, under the palace of King Minos of Crete.”

**Last Line:** “Leaping on board, the sailors rowed away from Crete and out to sea where, hoisting the sail, they sped over the water safely back to Athens.”

**Vocabulary:** maze, labyrinth, Minotaur, King Minos of Crete, demanded, resist, challenge, entrance, passages, glaring, bellowed, dodging, massive, Ariadne, gasped, released, moored, leaping, hoisting

**Pygmalion and His Wife – First Line:** “Pygmalion sighed as he chipped away at a huge block of pure white marble in his workshop.”

**Last Line:** “He called her Galatea and they were very happy together.”

**Vocabulary:** chipped, sighed, marble, sculptor, statues, Pygmalion, sighing, hard-hearted, gazed, garland, festival, Aphrodite (goddess of love), temple, offering, staring, stiff, Galatea

**Eros and Psyche – First Line:** “My daughter is the most beautiful girl in the world,” boasted Psyche’s father.

**Last Line:** “Eros took Psyche to Mount Olympus where he married her and they were very happy.”

**64 Greek Names and the pronunciations are listed in the back of this book on page 128.**

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**Title:** Favorite Greek Myths

**Retold by:** Mary Pope Osborne

**Illustrated by:** Troy Howell

**Contents:**

Chariot of the Sun God *(The Story of Phaeton and Helios)*

The Golden Touch *(The Story of Bacchus and King Midas)*

Lost at Sea *(The Story of Ceyx and Alcyone)*

The Weaving Contest *(The Story of Minerva and Arachne)*

Apollo’s Tree *(The Story of Apollo and Daphne)*

The Face in the Pool *(The Story of Echo and Narcissus)*

The Kidnapping *(The Story of Ceres and Proserpina)*

The Great Bear *(The Story of Callisto and Arcus)*

Journey to the Underworld *(The Story of Orpheus and Eurydice)*

The Golden Apples *(The Story of Atalanta and Hippomenes)*

The Four Tasks *(The Story of Cupid and Psyche)*

The Mysterious Visitors *(The Story of Baucis and Philemon)*

Gods, Goddesses, and Mortals *(The Olympians, Major Gods and Goddesses, Other*

 *Gods and Goddesses, Mortals, Other Names to Know)*

Modern Words with Greek Origins

Who Wrote the Greek Myths?

**Vocabulary:**

**Chariot of the Sun God:** gleaming, palace, throne, blinded, radiance, bowed, shield, kneeled, nymph, oaths, fiery, rashly, stall, crimson, crescent, vanished, chariot, spokes, imaginable, marveling, hooves, nostrils, jingling, harnesses, veer, neighed, spare, steed, constellations, numbness, rage, lumbering, panic, savage, scorpion, venom, fiery, bounded, careened, besieged, white-hot, nymphs, searing, agony, burdened, hypnotized, roused, flung, smoldering, tomb, mourned, emerald, throne, bowed, trembling, strode, snuffling, sunbeams, jingling, harnesses, weeping, bolted, boundless

**The Golden Touch:** vine, goblet, hospitable, chuckling, good-bye, nugget, plucked, pillars, mansion, servants, glittering, gleaming, servants, banquet, speared, dread, goblet, sobbing, grieved

**Lost At Sea:** shore, voyage, unleash, assured, consoled, flung, bitterly, oars, howl, thunder, rumbled, torrents, depths, pitch-black, incense, summoned, messenger, twilight, hollow, cackling, ebony, slumbering, roused, imitate, drowsy, arise, weep, clutched, chamber, stern, solstice, halcyon days, brooding

**The Weaving Contest:** peasant, spinner, weaver, nymphs, journeyed, crimson dyes, exquisite, tapestries, scorn, heaped, justified, furious, conceit, donned, hobbled, cottage, gnarled, prideful, arrogance, boomed, flushed, defiant, plunged, doom, weave, cringed, insolence, looms, crimson, tapestry, bordered, magnificent, haughtily, inspected, flaw, mercilessly, disgraced, humiliated, pity, vengeful, sprinkled

**Apollo’s Tree:** slain, serpent, ominous, quiver, blunt, nymph, disarray, bowstring, blunt-tipped, pierced, frantic, gold-tipped, bolted, swiftly, laurel tree, exquisite, loveliness, embraced, sacred, scholars

**The Face in the Pool:** nymphs, embrace jovial, lush, jealous, charming, chatted, stall, rage, brief, golden-haired, conceited, rustling, whirled, panicked, humiliated, silvery-smooth, shepherds, quench, spellbound, gazing, ivory, embrace, weep, yearn, reflection, magnificently, yearned, desolate, forlornly

**The Kidnapping:** spied, moist, petals, narcissus, strayed, rumble, splitting ripping, depths, chariot, ferociously, stallions, echoed, lantern, shrouded, weeping, permission, consent, reigns, rage, thrust, disguised, fond, pleaded, caverns, phantoms, accustomed, pomegranate, barren

**The Great Bear:** rage, descended, mortals, jealous, captivated, coarse, ferocious-looking, lumbered, nymphs, snatched, solitary, dawn, pursued, yearned, bowstring, maiden, hurled, constellations, forbid, descend, horizon

**Journey to the Underworld:** mortal, vows, ceremony, poisonous, slithered embrace, descended, murky, swamp, bordered, pitch-black, cavernous, phantom, groping, ravaged, three-headed, throne, lyre, tortured, wept, ferryman, passages, limping, fatal, trek, steep, snake-haired, dismal, phantoms, torch, temptation, barred, windswept, sturdy, boxwood, laurel, linden, mutely

**The Golden Apples:** blissfully, identity, pursued, suitors, compelling volunteered, appalled, gazelle, overwhelmed, great-grandson, tremendous, compete, consented, twilight, despising, shimmered, pluck, crouched, burst, tunic, delay, hurled, abandon, glittering, ingratitude, resembled

**The Four Tasks:** ordinary, desert, altars, furious, avenge, vilest, pricked, tormented, vanished, decreed, exile, chanted, funeral, escorted, topmost, peak, torches, extinguished, plateau, ivory, columns, invisible, gleaming, doom, splendor, envious, wailed, persuaded, convinced, fetched, stunned, flushed, quiver of arrows, wide-eyed, soared, weariness, desperately, handmaidens, dreadful, loathes, lentils, barley, rage, threshing, grazed, melodically, briars, drowsy, crystal goblet, craggy, vessel, fierce, sorceress, cruelest, descend, despair, cowardice, quest, weaving, fate, three-headed, secured, ensnare, crumpled, unconscious, hastened, raged

**The Mysterious Visitors:** mortals, midday, thatched, cottage, strong-looking, impish-looking, scurried, chatted, endive, radishes, milk-white honeycomb, figs, goblets, wrung, gnarled, guardian, estate, good-naturedly, gander, refuge, astounded, shimmering, awestruck, urged, stammered, gasped, gleaming, temple, pillars, columns, generosity, sprouting, linden tree, foliage, farewell, wreaths

**Inside cover flap:** “Welcome to a strange and beautiful world, where the moon, the sun, and the wind are all gods: where a human form can easily change into a plant or an animal; where nature’s secrets are magically revealed through tales of wonder. Welcome to the world of Greek mythology.

 Here are twelve favorite myths that are just as well-loved today as they were in ancient times. Meet the daring Phaeton, who charges across the skies in the sun god’s chariot; the greedy King Midas, whose love for gold nearly brings about his end; the vain Narcissus, who falls in love with his own reflection; and the loving mortals Baucis and Philemon, whose generosity raises them to the level of the gods.

 Mary Pope Osborne’s graceful prose and Troy Howell’s magnificent illustrations will give modern readers an unforgettable glimpse of some of the world’s finest literature.” Y. Voss 2013