



Jeremy in the Underworld

Becky Citra

illustrated by Jessica Milne

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About the Book

In *Jeremy in the Underworld*, the second book in the series, Jeremy and Aristotle return to ancient Greece, this time to the banks of the Styx River at the edge of the Underworld. A sinister ferryman takes Jeremy and Aristotle into the Underworld, where they outwit a three-headed dog and hide from Hades, who is looking for slaves to take to his palace. As Jeremy tries to solve the first riddle, he offers assistance to different characters that they meet and eventually receives help from Hercules and Queen Persephone.

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. 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 Idea**

Have you ever been punished for something you did wrong? Do you think the punishment was fair?

Classroom Discussion Questions

Do you think Hercules and Queen Persephone were good friends to Jeremy? Tell why.

There is an expression, “curiosity killed the cat.” How did Aristotle’s curiosity get Jeremy into trouble?

Aristotle drinks from the Pool of Forgetfulness. Is there anything in your life you would like to forget?

Have you ever won a race? What did it feel like? What is your favorite event at Sports Day?

Suggested Classroom Activities

Make a map of the Underworld. Show the route that Jeremy and Aristotle took.

Look at different illustrations of Cerberus. Design a monster with six heads, four eyes, etc.

Eat a pomegranate or drink pomegranate juice (Forbidden Fruit of the Dead!)

Watch the Walt Disney movie *Hercules*.

Pack a magic backpack to take to the moon, the North Pole, a jungle, a desert, etc.

Other Titles and Websites of Interest

D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths by Ingri D'Aulaire and Edgar D'Aulaire
The Outlandish Adventures of Orpheus in the Underworld by Paul Newham
Persephone by Sarah Tomaino
The Story of Persephone by Penelope Farmer
Usborne Greek Myths for Young Children by Heather Amery

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 Fantastic Flying Machine
Jeremy and the Golden Fleece
Never To Be Told
Runaway
Strawberry Moon

Awards and Reviews

CCBC Our Choice selection

“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*

“A good early reader for children.”
 —*CM Magazine*

“A good adventure with cliffhanger endings at the end of every chapter. Citra has delivered a story that does not overwhelm the reader with facts while weaving a good story-line...a lot of good reading in 63 pages!...A good read aloud and a unique story...a nice series to add to your library collection.”
 —*Resource Links*