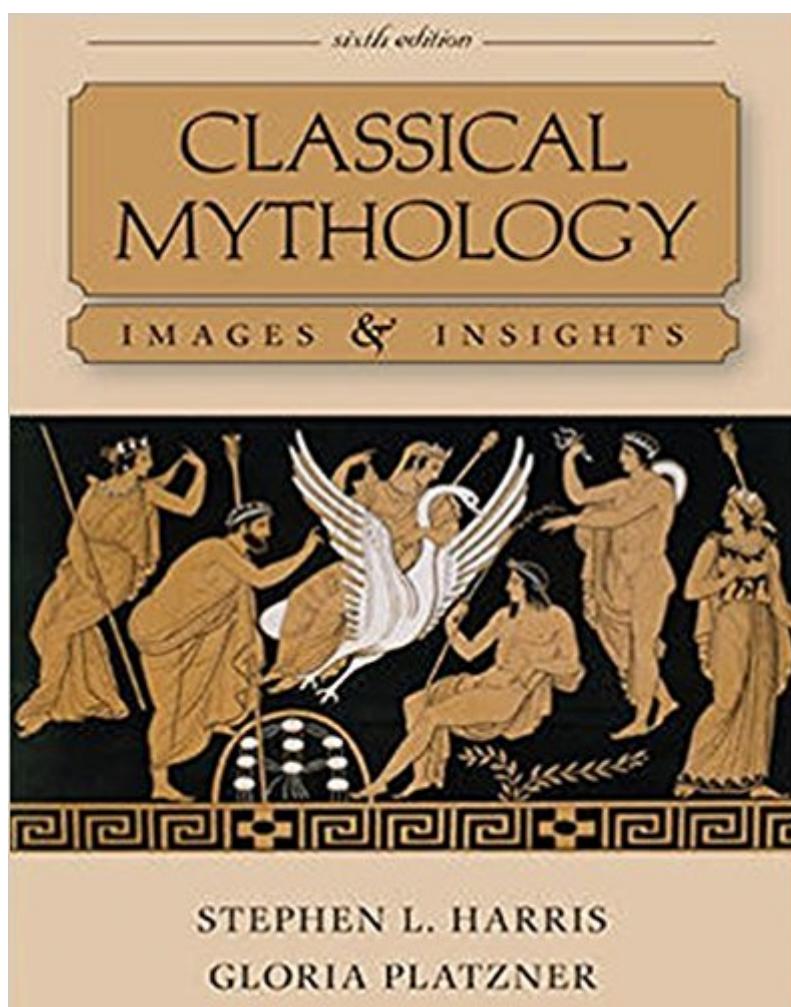


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Classical Mythology: Images And Insights



Synopsis

Classical Mythology: Images and Insights approaches the study of myths through complete works of Greco-Roman literature, including six complete Greek dramas and generous excerpts from the narratives of Homer, Hesiod, Virgil, and Ovid, and through carefully chosen examples of classical works of art, both painting and sculpture. Combining literary masterpieces with the visual arts, this integrative approach offers readers a comprehensive experience with both cognitive and aesthetic appeal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gloria Platzner teaches in the English and Humanities programs at California State University, Sacramento, including courses on Classical Mythology and World Mythology. Stephen L. Harris is Professor Emeritus of Humanities and Religious Studies at California State University, Sacramento, where he served ten years as department chair. A Woodrow Wilson Fellow, he received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Cornell University. A member of the Society of Biblical Literature, his publications include *Understanding the Bible* (8th edition, 2011); *The Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible* (with Robert Platzner); *Classical Mythology: Images and Insights* (with Gloria Platzner); *Exploring the Bible*; and *Fire Mountains of the West: The Cascade and Mono Lake Volcanoes*, a survey of volcanic hazards on the U.S. Pacific Coast; and for National Geographic Books, *Restless Earth*, a study of global earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. He contributed the chapter on "Archaeology and Volcanism" to the *Encyclopedia of Volcanoes* (Academic Press, 2000).

Though I bought this book for a class, I found it was an interesting read nonetheless. This was clearly an instance of a prior edition performing a serviceable job in the pursuit of an academic credential. My class touched strictly on the Greek myths; the reader will find that Hesiod and Homer are discussed sufficiently for most needs. A reader looking for a broader take should be pleased with both the Roman excerpts and the more contemporary interpretations (Auden, Boland) drawing on these myths. The post-colonial crowd may take umbrage at the lack of "diversity" but this book contains enough for an undergraduate needing a firm understanding of Greek myth, whether it be for comparative religion or general humanities work.

I'm renting this for a class and it's in great quality. It arrived in a timely fashion, even though there was a mix-up with the carrier facility. UPDATE: I adored this book! I got it for a class, and strongly considered buying it after spending a month with it (it was a winter class, so the semester was only about a month long). It provides analysis of specific Greek myths (for example, the stories of Hercules) from multiple perspectives, as well as Greek myths in general. The book is very informative and well-structured. It also contains various excerpts, and includes discussion of several if not all of the excerpts, so you can read the myth as well as an explanation/analysis of it. I'm very pleased with this rental.

I'm a student, not a teacher, but let me just say this book tries way too hard. It definitely speaks from an academic view and doesn't tell you enough details about the myths themselves. My real problem with it is that it seems the writer(s) have used a complicated thesaurus for every single word. In my class we read passages out loud, and nobody can read them because the words are so unnecessarily long and confusing.

Used for a university course, this book is surprisingly quick to read and highly compelling. Greek myth is discussed and explained in vivid detail, while exploring beyond the confines of Greek myth, and looking to the origins of certain characters, comparisons in Egyptian, Sumerian, and Babylonian myth, as well as the potential origins of characters based upon their names, and the relations with the particular pronunciation with an Indo-European and proto-Indo-European language equivalent. The Zeus figure is shown to be a shared archetype in the mythologies of peoples as far north as the Sarmatians and as far east as the Indians. In sections, the text tells the stories of the myth told by certain playwrights, authors, and poets, along with providing fragments, or full texts of the plays and

works in question at the end of the sections/chapters regarding them. You basically don't need to even read the works themselves, but they're there in fully readable translations. Of my complaints, I have two, neither of them particularly important. For one, the index is poorly done. It's incredibly difficult to find specific things in this 1000+ page book based off of the index alone. For two, the pronounciations. I shouldn't expect a strict adherence to Graeco-Roman style pronunciation (Ah-rays for "Ares", He-fai-stoos for "Hephaestus"), but the pronounciations given are atrociously wrong, even with regards to Anglicized pronounciations. Hippolytus, for example, is given to pronounce as "Hip-PAHL-ih-tus", which is a needless struggle for the tongue compared to "Hip-poh-lai-tus", which is also much closer to the true pronunciation. Others include "dee-ya-nye-ra" for Deianeira, "uh-thee-nuh" for Athene (which is spelled in every instance as "Athene" and not "Athena"), and then suddenly putting the pronunciation for Uranus as "OOR-a-nuhs" which IS the right pronunciation in Latin/Greek. Obviously they weren't looking to have the pronunciation stretch out "Yur-ay-nus"

Thus textbook is really good, espically if you likw mythology and the different ideas of it and the differences between Roman and Greek. It did have some highlighting in it, but it didn't bother me. Overall I was pleased that I got this textbook from .

a comprehensive textbook of greek mythology. stacks of info & relevant pictures. easy to read/understand with review questions at the end of the chapter which is great for seeing how much relevant information has been retained. contains everything you need for a comprehensive understanding of greek mythology. what i also love is that it has a phonetic glossery so any of those tricky greek names can easily be pronounced & remembered correctly. all in all a great textbook for study, very happy with it & priced well.

As far as textbooks for school goes, this one is actually a great read. It is easily understandable writing style and the author adds information that helps you to remember who he is talking about. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in Greek Mythology, even if you are not taking a class for it, really helps to get a better understanding.

Condition of the book was poor. Highlighted torn cover. But i made it through class with an A+. Thank you. Great book.

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