

This Week: Mythology

Book Suggestions - Non-Fiction:

The Gods of Greece by Arianna Stassinopoulos and Roloff Beny

Gives the background of Greek gods from Apollo to Zeus and shows how they were depicted in Greek sculpture.

Norse Mythology by Neil Gaiman

In *Norse Mythology*, Gaiman relates the major Norse pantheon: Odin, the highest of the high, wise, daring, and cunning; Thor, Odin's son, incredibly strong yet not the wisest of gods; and Loki—son of a giant—blood brother to Odin and a trickster and unsurpassable manipulator. Gaiman fashions these primeval stories into a novelistic arc that begins with the genesis of the legendary nine worlds and delves into the exploits of deities, dwarfs, and giants.

From The Cauldron Born: Exploring the Magic of Welsh Legend & Lore by Kristoffer Hughes

The tale of Taliesin and the magical cauldron of Cerridwen speaks from the heart of the Celtic Pagan tradition. The reader is invited not only to read the story but to live it. You are invited to resonate with the magic of the witch mother Cerridwen and her cauldron of inspiration. You are invited to become Taliesin, the prophetic spirit with the radiant brow. You are invited to awaken to a lucidity of spirit born from the archetypes of sacred myth.

Egyptian Myths and Legends by Donald A. MacKenzie

The myths and legends of ancient Egypt begin with the rise of the great Nilotic civilization and end with the Graeco-Roman Age. The principle deities are dealt with chiefly at the various periods in which they came into prominence, while the legends are so arranged as to throw light on the beliefs and manners and customs of the ancient people.

Book Suggestions - Fiction:

Bird Box by Josh Malerman

Something is out there, something terrifying that must not be seen. One glimpse of it, and a person is driven to deadly violence. No one knows what it is or where it came from. Five years after it began, a handful of scattered survivors remains, including Malorie and her two young children. Living in an abandoned house near the river, she has dreamed of fleeing to a place where they might be safe.

Now that the boy and girl are four, it's time to go, but the journey ahead will be terrifying: twenty miles downriver in a rowboat -- blindfolded -- with nothing to rely on but her wits and the children's trained ears. One wrong choice and they will die. Something is following them all the while, but is it man, animal, or monster?

The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller

A unique retelling of the legend of The Iliad, Achilles and the Trojan War. A tale of gods, kings, immortal fame, and the human heart. An action-packed adventure, an epic love story, a marvelously conceived and executed page-turner.

The Golem and the Jinni by Helene Wecker

A chance meeting between mythical beings takes readers on a dazzling journey through cultures in turn-of-the-century New York. Chava is a golem, a creature made of clay, brought to life to by a disgraced rabbi who dabbles in dark Kabbalistic magic and dies at sea on the voyage from Poland. Chava is unmoored and adrift as the ship arrives in New York harbor in 1899. Ahmad is a jinni, a being of fire born in the ancient Syrian Desert, trapped in an old copper flask, and released in New York City, though still not entirely free. Ahmad and Chava become unlikely friends and soul mates with a mystical connection.

Video Suggestions:

Percy Jackson - The Lightning Thief

Percy Jackson - Sea of Monsters

Thor

Wrath of the Titans

Road Trip Films:

USA Route 66: kitsch and mythical

The Road

Into the Wild

The Leisure Seeker