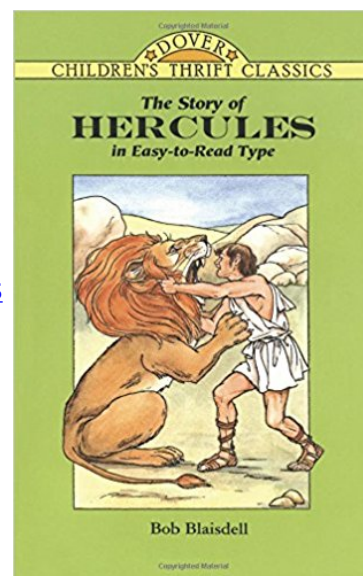


Robert (Bob) Blaisdell , Althea (Thea) Kliros

The Story of Hercules (in Easy-to-Read Type)

United States (1997)

TAGS: [Achelous](#) [Achilles](#) [Admetus](#) [Aegean Sea](#) [Aeolia](#) [Aeolus](#) [Aeson](#) [Alcestis](#) [Alcmene](#) [Alcyonian Lake](#) [Althaea / Althea](#) [Amazons](#) [Amphitryon](#) [Antaeus / Antaios](#) [Aphrodite](#) [Apollo](#) [Apples of the Hesperides](#) [Arcadia](#) [Ares](#) [Argo](#) [Argolid](#) [Argonauts](#) [Athena](#) [Atlas](#) [Augeas](#) [Autolykos](#) [Automedusa](#) [Black Sea / Pontus](#) [Euxinus](#) [Calydon](#) [Castor](#) [Centaur\(s\)](#) [Cerberus](#) [Ceryneian Hind](#) [Chiron / Cheiron](#) [Cretan Bull](#) [Crete](#) [Cronus / Kronos](#) [Deianeira](#) [Diomedes \(of Thrace\)](#) [Diomedes' Mares](#) [Echidna](#) [Elerion](#) [Enceladus](#) [Erymanthian Boar](#) [Erymanthus](#) [Eurystheus](#) [Eurytos](#) [Gaia / Gaea](#) [Geryon](#) [Giants](#) [Golden Fleece](#) [Greece](#) [Hades](#) [Hephaestus](#) [Hera](#) [Heracles](#) [Hercules](#) [Hesione](#) [Hippolyta's Belt](#) [Hydra](#) [Hylas](#) [Immortality](#) [Iolaus](#) [Iole](#) [Iphicles](#) [Ithaca](#) [Jason](#) [Linus](#) [Minos](#) [Minotaur](#) [Mycenae](#) [Nemean Lion](#) [Nephele](#) [Nessus](#) [Nymphs](#) [Odysseus / Ulysses](#) [Olympus](#) [Orpheus](#) [Pallene](#) [Pasiphae](#) [Peloponnese](#) [Perseus](#) [Pholus](#) [Pillars of Hercules](#) [Poseidon](#) [Rhea](#) [Stymphalian Birds](#) [Telamon](#) [Thebes](#) [Theiodamas \(King\)](#) [Themiscyra / Themyscira](#) [Thespis](#) [Tiryns](#) [Titans](#) [Troy](#) [Twelve Labours of Heracles](#) [Typhon / Typhoeus / Typhaon](#) [Zeus](#)



Courtesy of Dover Publications, Inc.

General information	
Title of the work	The Story of Hercules (in Easy-to-Read Type)
Country of the First Edition	United States of America
Country/countries of popularity	United States
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	1997
First Edition Details	Bob Blaisdell, <i>The Story of Hercules</i> . New York: Dover Publications, 1997, 96 pp.
ISBN	9780486297682
Genre	Fictional autobiography, Illustrated works, Instructional and educational works, Myths, Novels

Allison Rosenblum, "Entry on: The Story of Hercules (in Easy-to-Read Type) by Robert (Bob) Blaisdell, Althea (Thea) Kliros", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice and Elżbieta Olechowska. *Our Mythical Childhood Survey* (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: <http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/239>. Entry version as of March 04, 2025.

<i>Target Audience</i>	Crossover (8-14 yo)
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Creators



Robert (Bob) Blaisdell , b. 1959 (Author)

Bob Blaisdell (b. 1959) is an American freelance author, illustrator and editor. He obtained his B.A., M.A. and PhD from the University of California. He teaches English at Kingsborough Community College (City University, New York). He also works as a reviewer for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Christian Science Monitor*. He is a frequent contributor to Dover Publications; his other works with them include *The Story of Hercules* (1997), *Robin Hood* (1993) and *Essays on Civil Disobedience* (2016). He also wrote the accompanying text to Dover's *Adventures of Hercules Coloring Book*, with the illustrations again done by Green. He has written a handful of historical books such as *Elizabethan Poetry*, *Great Speeches of the 20th Century*, *The Civil War*, and has written two books on mythology – *The Story of Hercules* (1997), and *Favorite Greek Myths*.

Blaisdell is particularly attached to *Anna Karenina* and advises students that if they want "a solid basis for literary studies" they "should read the Bible cover to cover" (see [here](#), accessed: October 31, 2018).

Sources:

[Profile](#) at the lareviewofbooks.org (accessed: July 4, 2018).

[Profile](#) at the goodreads.com (accessed: July 4, 2018).

[Profile](#) at the biblio.com (accessed: July 4, 2018).

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Althea (Thea) Kliros , 1935 - 2013 (Illustrator)

Born in New York, Kliros lived in many places throughout Europe. She studied art at Bennington College and Yale University School of Art and Design. Her career began with painting and while her initial focus was on fashion illustrations, it shifted to children's books and she became an award-winning illustrator such as *Best of the Year* from the Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia for the Greenwillow Harper Collins publication *What Can you Do in The Rain?* Among her works are *Anne of Green Gables* from Anytime Books, and *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Billy Goat Gruff* from Harper Festival/Harper Collins.

Sources:

Official [website](#) (accessed: June 28, 2018).

[Profile](#) at the legacy.com (accessed: June 28, 2018).

Bio prepared by Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University,
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Additional information

Summary

Hercules narrates his story, beginning with his birth as the mortal son of a god. He talks of how he was a child prodigy in warfare but failed at learning music. After killing the teacher that belittles him about failing at music, Hercules goes out into the world to learn what he can. After Hera challenges Zeus to prove Hercules is worthy of being immortal, Hercules jumps at the opportunity and completes twelve labours.

Analysis

Hercules narrates the story, and the narration is extremely biased and egotistic. He speaks of Hera's jealousy of himself, and how Eurystheus inherited the throne instead of him; he praises his own fearlessness and strength. Hercules says straight out that he does not value modesty and this opinion is noticeable throughout his narration as he boasts about his astounding strength and appears extremely vain at times. In his own eyes, Hercules deserves all the fame and glory he eventually received. The handful of black and white illustrations emphasizes Hercules' strength, and the book is made up of thirteen chapters, roughly one chapter per labour.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts

[Achelous](#) [Achilles](#) [Admetus](#) [Aegean Sea](#) [Aeolia](#) [Aeolus](#) [Aeson](#) [Alcestis](#) [Alcmene](#) [Alcyonian Lake](#) [Althaea / Althea](#) [Amazons](#) [Amphitryon](#) [Antaeus](#) / [Antaios](#) [Aphrodite](#) [Apollo](#) [Apples of the Hesperides](#) [Arcadia](#) [Ares](#) [Argo](#) [Argolid](#) [Argonauts](#) [Athena](#) [Atlas](#) [Augeas](#) [Autolykos](#) [Automedusa](#) [Black Sea / Pontus](#) [Euxinus](#) [Calydon](#) [Castor](#) [Centaur\(s\)](#) [Cerberus](#) [Ceryneian Hind](#) [Chiron / Cheiron](#) [Cretan Bull](#) [Crete](#) [Cronus / Kronos](#) [Deianeira](#) [Diomedes \(of Thrace\)](#) [Diomedes' Mares](#) [Echidna](#) [Elerion](#) [Enceladus](#) [Erymanthian Boar](#) [Erymanthus](#) [Eurystheus](#) [Eurytos](#) [Gaia / Gaea](#) [Geryon](#) [Giants](#) [Golden Fleece](#) [Greece](#) [Hades](#) [Hephaestus](#) [Hera](#) [Heracles](#) [Hercules](#) [Hesione](#) [Hippolyta's Belt](#) [Hydra](#) [Hylas](#) [Immortality](#) [Iolaus](#) [Iole](#) [Iphicles](#) [Ithaca](#) [Jason](#) [Linus](#) [Minos](#) [Minotaur](#) [Mycenae](#) [Nemean Lion](#) [Nephele](#) [Nessus](#) [Nymphs](#) [Odysseus / Ulysses](#) [Olympus](#) [Orpheus](#) [Pallene](#) [Pasiphae](#) [Peloponnese](#) [Perseus](#) [Pholus](#) [Pillars of Hercules](#) [Poseidon](#) [Rhea](#) [Stymphalian Birds](#) [Telamon](#) [Thebes](#) [Theiodamas \(King\)](#) [Themiscyra / Themyscira](#) [Thespis](#) [Tiryns](#) [Titans](#) [Troy](#) [Twelve Labours of Heracles](#) [Typhon / Typhoeus / Typhaon](#) [Zeus](#)



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Other Motifs, Figures,
and Concepts Relevant
for Children and Youth
Culture

[Appearances](#) [Character traits](#) [Child, children](#) [Death](#) [Disobedience](#)
[Emotions](#) [Heroism](#) [Intellect](#) [Revenge](#) [Self](#) [Storytelling](#) [Tricksters](#)
[Violence](#)

