

Elizabeth Hale (University of New England, Australia)

Abstract for the presentation at the international conference “Children and Youth on the Move” organised by the Children’s History Society on June 21-23, 2018, at the University of Greenwich, London, UK

Myth and Movement in Australian animation for young viewers: *The Deep*

The Deep is an Australian graphic novel (2011) that has recently been adapted to an animated series through an Australian-Canadian co-production. In it, the Nektons, a family of four aquanauts explore the oceans, seeking mystery, mythology, and enlightenment. An Atlantean myth links episodes: the Nektons are descended from a lost civilisation called Lemuria, and seeking the key to their origins in company with a group of mysterious Guardians. Along the way they encounter lost Greek and Roman statues and ships, a seahorselike Minotaur in a mysterious shifting labyrinth. Classical mythology is loosely woven through this series: the youngest Nekton Antaeus, through whom the show is largely focalised, is named after the half-giant son of Poseidon and Gaia, and solves many of the show’s mysteries.

“While others look up to the stars, my family knows that there are also stars beneath us, that there are an infinite number of things that shine brightly in the darkness below. Most of our world lies unexplored, unexplained. There are things lurking in the seas that have only ever been spoken about in myth.”

In this paper I will talk about the ways that classical myth is mobilised in *The Deep*, as part of an animated science-fiction action-adventure family show that, like many successful Australian-based shows, deliberately appeals to a global audience of young viewers.



This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood... The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children’s and Young Adults’ Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016-2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of “Artes Liberales” of the University of Warsaw.

