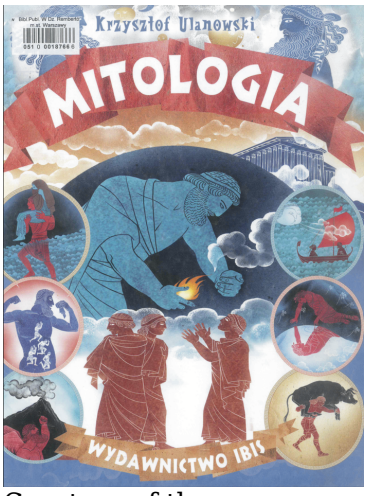
Summary: Sebastian Mirecki, Analysis: Hanna Paulouskaya, "Entry on: Mythology [Mitologia] by Krzysztof Ulanowski", peer-reviewed by Elżbieta Olechowska and Marta Pszczolińska. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2022). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/1538. Entry version as of November 07, 2026.

Krzysztof Ulanowski

Mythology [Mitologia]

Poland (2011)

TAGS: Aphrodite Argonauts Ariadne Daedalus Demeter Deucalion Eros Icarus Jason Kore (Persephone) Medea Minos Minotaur Narcissus Olympians Pandora Prometheus Psyche Pyrrha Theseus Zeus



Courtesy of the publisher.

General information	
Title of the work	Mythology [Mitologia]
Country of the First Edition	Poland
Country/countries of popularity	Poland
Original Language	Polish
First Edition Date	2011
First Edition Details	Krzysztof Ulanowski, *Mitologia*, ill. Maria Wróbel. Poznań: Wydawnictwo IBIS, 2011, 56 pp.
ISBN	9788377380437
Genre	Anthology of myths*
Target Audience	Children
Author of the Entry	Summary: Sebastian Mirecki, University of Warsaw, smirecki@student.uw.edu.pl Analysis: Hanna Paulouskaya, University of Warsaw, hannapa@al.uw.edu.pl
Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Elżbieta Olechowska, University of Warsaw, elzbieta.olechowska@gmail.com Marta Pszczolińska, University of Warsaw, m.pszczolinska@al.uwedu.pl

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.

Creators



Photograph courtesy of the Author.

Krzysztof Ulanowski , b. 1966
(Author)

A lawyer by education, earns his life as a journalist, translator of English texts, and author for young readers. Contributes to local and national press, as well as to periodicals specializing in mountain tourism. Interested also in animal rights, travel and jogging. Vegan and marathon runner.

Bio based on the material kindly provided by the Author.

Bio prepared by Sebastian Mirecki, University of Warsaw, smirecki@student.uw.edu.pl

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.

Additional information

Summary

Based on: Katarzyna Marciniak, Elżbieta Olechowska, Joanna Kłos, Michał Kucharski (eds.), *Polish Literature for Children & Young Adults Inspired by Classical Antiquity: A Catalogue*, Faculty of "Artes Liberales", Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2013, 444 pp.

A book for children and young readers. It contains the most popular myths and short stories about Greek gods, heroes and humans. Clarity of narration and lack of graphic description of violence make the book appropriate for young readers.

The book includes eight chapters and a conclusion:

1. Wars of the Gods
2. Gods and Men
3. The Goddess in Love
4. About a Man Who Loved Himself
5. The Kidnapping of Kore
6. The Flight of Icarus
7. The Thread of Ariadne
8. The Quest for the Golden Fleece

Analysis

The book is written in an easy and clear way. It begins as a typical fairy tale: "Dawno, dawno temu, za rozległymi lasami…" (Once upon a time, beyond vast forests…, p. 5), and refers to the fairy-tale template, like the phrase ("żyli potem długo i szczęśliwie" [they lived happily ever after], p. 18). It contains emotional descriptions and exclamations, as well as uses diminutives typical for books for children (such as, "synek" [sonny], p. 6; "serduszka" [little hearts], p. 23; "tatusiu" [daddy], p. 34, etc.). Ulanowski adds imaginative details and redundant words, which makes the text more vivid (for example, after the appearance of Earth and Sky, "[n]a niebie nieśmiało zaświeciło słońce" [the sun timidly began to shine in the sky], p. 5; or, the author uses the adverb "very" in excess, pp. 5, 6, 9, 12, 14, 15, etc.). The author tends to give positive descriptions to all creatures, such as the first generation of gods and titans were "dzielni i silni" (brave and strong, p. 5). For Gaia they were just kids whom she has pitied ("Gaja pożałowała swoich uwięzionych pod ziemią dzieci" [Gaia pitied her children trapped underground], p. 5) and loved ("Były to przecież jej ukochane dzieci!" [After all, they were her beloved

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.

children!], p. 9). The book includes a minimum of cruel details or sexual references (cf. killing of Uranus, p. 6, or the birth of Minotaur, p. 30).

At the same time, the author does not avoid difficult words and phrases, sometimes providing an explanation for them. For example, for "blue [river]" he uses the archaic "modry" [intensive blue], although the more commonly used words "niebieski" or "błękitny" might be used here as well (p. 5); or to say that Pygmalion was very happy to see Galatea come to life, the phrase "nie posiadać się ze szczęścia" is used (p. 18), which is somewhat dated Polish. Finally, describing the Chaos that was in the beginning, Ulanowski adds an explanation – "czyli wielki, niewyobrażalnie ogromny bałagan" (that is a big, unimaginably huge mess, p. 5).

The author especially appeals to the Polish reader often using an inclusive "we", "us", "our" (e.g., "naszą Polskę" [our Poland] (p. 5), "nasze Tatry" [our Tatras] (p.15)). "U nas, w Polsce" [here in Poland] (p. 9), one can find the mace of Heracles, which is a huge rock with such a name*). He often emphasises "today's" state of knowledge or human achievement (p. 10–12, 15, 24, 33, etc.). Ulanowski also stresses that he is writing for schoolchildren, referring to their knowledge of different school subjects (e.g., geography, p. 10) or just school knowledge (p. 24, 29, etc.).

The book often contains moral messages and promotes values (for example: "Tak, tak, nawet ta dobra Afrodyta potrafiła być aż tak złośliwa. A wszystko przez tak niegodną bogów cechę jak zazdrość" [Yes, yes, even the good Aphrodite could be that malicious. And all this because of jealousy, such an unworthy trait for the gods], p. 19; "I ku przestrodze innym. Bo dobrze jest kochać, ale bardzo źle jest kochać wyłącznie siebie" [And as a warning to others. For it is good to love, but it is very bad to love only yourself], p. 24).

Unfortunately, there are some spelling errors in the book (e.g., "Almateja" for "Amalteja" [Amalthea], p. 6; Polish "already" instead of "yet", p. 10**).

The book contains beautiful illustrations on every page painted in the style of Greek vases. The colours used the most are shades of blue, red, and yellow, which makes the design of the book especially attractive.

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.

	* “Tak naprawdę jest to zwykła, wapienna skała, ale dzięki temu, że ma podłużny kształt i rozszerza się ku górze, nazwano ją właśnie ‘maczugą Heraklesa’” [In fact, it is an ordinary limestone rock, but due to its long shape that widens upwards, it has been called “the mace of Heracles”], p. 9. ** “Nie umieli już budować tak doskonałych domostw (…), jakie potrafimy wytwarzać dziś” [They did not already know how to build such perfect houses (…) as we are able to make today], pp. 10–12.
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Aphrodite Argonauts Ariadne Daedalus Demeter Deucalion Eros Icarus Jason Kore (Persephone) Medea Minos Minotaur Narcissus Olympians Pandora Prometheus Psyche Pyrrha Theseus Zeus
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Conflict Emotions Heritage Humanity Identity Intertextuality Love Morality Values

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.