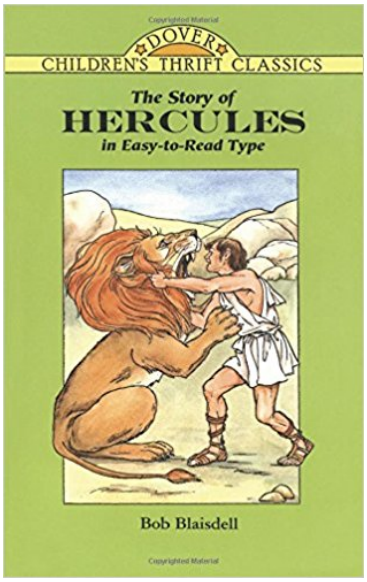
Allison Rosenblum, "Entry on: The Story of Hercules (in Easy-to-Read Type) by Robert (Bob) Blaisdell, Althea (Thea) Kliros", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice and Elżbieta Olechowska. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/239. Entry version as of September 13, 2026.

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 Autolycos 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, *The Story of Hercules*. New York: Dover Publications, 1997, 96 pp.
ISBN	9780486297682

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Genre	Fictional autobiography, Illustrated works, Instructional and educational works, Myths, Novels
Target Audience	Crossover (8-14 yo)
Author of the Entry	Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University, allie.rose89@gmail.com
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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 Hercule*s (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 Hercule*s (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).

Bio prepared by Robin Diver, University of Birmingham, RSD253@student.bham.ac.uk and Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University, allie.rose89@gmail.com

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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, allie.rose89@gmail.com

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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 Autolycos 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

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