Allison Rosenblum, "Entry on: Prometheus and the Story of Fire by Robert Baxter, I. M. Richardson ", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice and Elizabeth Hale. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/275. Entry version as of September 14, 2026.

Robert Baxter , I. M. Richardson

Prometheus and the Story of Fire

United States (1983)

TAGS: Caucasus Mountains Cronus / Kronos Cyclops / Cyclopes Epimetheus Gaia / Gaea Hephaestus Heracles Hercules Ouranos / Uranus Pandora Prometheus Rhea Zeus

We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Prometheus and the Story of Fire
Country of the First Edition	United States of America
Country/countries of popularity	United States
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	1983
First Edition Details	I.M. Richardson, *Prometheus and the Story of Fire*. USA: Troll Communications, L.L.C., 1983, 32 pp.
ISBN	0893758590
Genre	Illustrated works, Myths, Picture books
Target Audience	Children
Author of the Entry	Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University, allie.rose89@gmail.com
Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Lisa Maurice, Bar-Ilan University, lisa.maurice@biu.ac.il Elizabeth Hale, University of New England, ehale@une.edu.au

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Creators

Robert Baxter , b. 1930
(Illustrator)

Baxter is an illustrator and studio artist who works with both watercolour and oil. He studied at the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles in 1954–1957. He was one of six artists who started Studio II, a school/studio in Connecticut. He currently is on the faculty of two Connecticut schools – Silvermine School of Art and Rowayton Art Center. He has won eleven awards, the last being the Ogden Pleisner Memorial Prize from the American Watercolor Society in 1999, and his last exhibition was in 2011 at the Westport Historical Society in Connecticut.

Source:

Profile at the dabbertgallery.com (accessed: July 4, 2018).

Bio prepared by Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University, allie.rose89@gmail.com

I. M. Richardson (Author)

I. M. Richardson has written a number of children's retellings of classic literature such as *Demeter and Persephone: the Seasons of Time*, *The Adventures of Eros and Psyche*, *The Adventures of Hercules*, *Tales from the Odyssey*, etc.

Source:

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Profile at the goodreads.com (accessed: June 25, 2018).

Bio prepared by Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University, allie.rose89@gmail.com

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Additional information

Summary

The book claims that the origin of the characters of Greek mythology can be found in the stories of Prometheus and Pandora. The narrative begins with chaos and the appearance of Gaea and Uranus, whose first children were monsters. Siblings to these monsters were Cyclops and Titans. Gaea calls upon her Titan children to fight Uranus, who had locked the monsters underground. Cronus steps forward and succeeds in overthrowing Uranus. To make sure he remains ruler of the universe and that none of his children threaten him, he swallows them. His sixth child, Zeus, is smuggled away by Rhea. Zeus' escape eventually led to the war between the gods following Zeus and the Titans. Prometheus' wisdom is what stops the war. Zeus decides he wants animals and people in the universe, and tasks Prometheus with creating them. Prometheus wants to give fire to his mortal creations and steals it from the gods. Zeus punishes the mortals by creating Pandora and giving her the box she was meant never to open, and Prometheus by chaining him to Mount Caucasus. He was willing to free Prometheus if the Titan revealed who would be Zeus' downfall, but Prometheus refused to say. His punishment got worse and continued until Hercules eventually set him free.

Analysis

Prometheus and the Story of Fire is a straightforward, authentic retelling of the Greek myth. It starts with the origins of Greek mythology, giving a short though detailed background about the creation of the Titans, Cronus' fight with Uranus, Zeus' fight against Cronus, and the battle between the Titans and Olympians. The story focuses on Prometheus' wisdom and good will, emphasizing the benevolence of his action in stealing the fire and his fortitude in not revealing to Zeus who would bring about his downfall, breaking the cycle started by Uranus. The story of Pandora is discussed only as it relates to the chain of events in Greek mythology (Pandora is merely the punishment for Prometheus stealing the fire and giving it to mankind). The narrative takes a passive approach in discussing her curiosity and the eventual opening of the box. It portrays her as an agent of the gods whose curiosity – given to her by a god (the narrative makes a vague suggestion that it could be Zeus, but does not claim straight out that it was him) – got the best of her.

The illustrations appear on every page and the palette is a relatively

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	dark one. The narrative itself is not particularly dark or pessimistic, but it does focus on the troubles and turmoil that Prometheus had to face at the hands of Zeus.
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Caucasus Mountains Cronus / Kronos Cyclops / Cyclopes Epimetheus Gaia / Gaea Hephaestus Heracles Hercules Ouranos / Uranus Pandora Prometheus Rhea Zeus
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Authority Conflict Heroism Humanism Relationships Values

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