Katerina Volioti, "Entry on: Poseidon. The sea god [Ποσειδώνας. Ο Θεός της θάλασσας (Poseidónas. O theós tīs thálassas)] by Natalia Kapatsoulia, Filippos Mandilaras ", peer-reviewed by Susan Deacy and Lisa Maurice. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2019). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/655. Entry version as of November 05, 2026.

Natalia Kapatsoulia , Filippos Mandilaras

Poseidon. The sea god [Ποσειδώνας. Ο Θεός της θάλασσας (Poseidónas. O theós tīs thálassas)]

Greece (2012)

TAGS: Amphitrite Chronos Demeter Giants Hades Hera Hestia Nereid(s) Olympus Rhea Titans Troy



Courtesy of the Publisher. Retrieved from epbooks.gr (accessed: July 5, 2022).

General information	
Title of the work	Poseidon. The sea god [Ποσειδώνας. Ο Θεός της θάλασσας (Poseidónas. O theós tīs thálassas)]
Country of the First Edition	Greece
Country/countries of popularity	Greece
Original Language	Greek
First Edition Date	2012
First Edition Details	Filippos Mandilaras, *Ποσειδώνας. Ο Θεός της θάλασσας* [Poseidónas. O theós tīs thálassas], My First Mythology [Η Πρώτη μου Μυθολογία (Ī prṓtī mou Mythología)]. Athens: Papadopoulos Publishing, 2012, 36 pp.
ISBN	9789604842971
Available Onllne	Demo of 7 pages available at epbooks.gr (accessed: October 13, 2021).
Genre	Illustrated works
Target Audience	Children (4+)
Author of the Entry	Katerina Volioti, University of Roehampton, Katerina.Volioti@roehampton.ac.uk

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.

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Creators



Natalia Kapatsoulia (Illustrator)

Natalia Kapatsoulia studied French Literature in Athens, and she worked as a language tutor before embarking on a career as a full-time illustrator of children's books. Kapatsoulia has authored one picture book *Η Μαμά πετάει* [Mom Wants to Fly], which has been translated into Spanish *Mamá quiere volar*. Kapatsoulia, who now lives on the island of Kefalonia, Greece, has collaborated with Filippos Mandilaras on multiple book projects.

Sources:

Official website (accessed: July 2, 2018).

Profile at the epbooks.gr (accessed: July 2, 2018).

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Filippos Mandilaras , b. 1965
(Author)

Filippos Mandilaras is a prolific and well-known writer of children's illustrated books and of young adults' novels. Mandilaras studied French Literature in Sorbonne, Paris. His latest novel, which was published in May 2016, is entitled *Υπέροχος Κόσμος* [Wonderful World], and it recounts the story of teenage life in a deprived Athenian district. With his illustrated books, Mandilaras aims to encourage parents and teachers to improvise by adding words when reading

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stories to children. Mandilaras is interested in the anthropology of extraordinary creatures and his forthcoming work is about Modern Greek Mythologies.

Sources:

In Greek:

Profile on EP Books' website (accessed: June 27, 2018).

i-read.i-teen.gr (accessed: June 27, 2018).

Public Blog, published 15 September 2015 (accessed: June 27, 2018).

Press Publica, published 28 January 2017 (accessed: June 27, 2018).

Linkedin.com, published published 6 May 2016 (accessed: February 6, 2019).

In English:

Amazon.com (accessed: June 27, 2018).

On Mandoulides' website, published 7 March 2017 (accessed: June 27, 2018).

In German:

literaturfestival.com (accessed: June 27, 2018).

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Additional information

Summary

Poseidon, we are told, lives in the depths of the sea and always carries a trident. When he gets angry, he can upset the sea and cause earthquakes. We turn the page, and we are offered biographical information. Poseidon was Cronus' and Rhea's son. Cronus swallowed five of his children, so that they could not challenge his leadership of the Titans. Sorrowful Rhea, when she had a sixth baby, she gave a stone to Cronus to devour. So, we are told, Zeus grew up and became strong and overthrew his father. The Titans, however, fought the gods, Zeus and his five siblings (Demeter, Poseidon, Hades, Hera, and Hestia). The gods won. The male gods drew lots for dividing the world "into vast kingdoms" [my translation]. Poseidon did not like being god of the seas. He intended to tie up Zeus in chains and fill Zeus' mouth with celery. Having learned these intentions, Zeus punished Poseidon to build the walls of Troy for a year. As the year ended, the Giants fought the Olympians. Poseidon rushed to assist the gods, cutting mountains in half with his trident. When everything calmed down, Poseidon returned to the bottom of the seas, to his palace there. One day, Poseidon fell in love with Amphitrite, a beautiful Nereid. Amphitrite ran away from him, and Poseidon was heartbroken. A small dolphin promised Poseidon to find Amphitrite for him. The dolphin found her, and Poseidon and Amphitrite lived together happily in their palace.

The book closes with background information about the Titanomachy, the Gigantomachy, and Amphitrite and the Nereids. In the final two pages, children can colour a sketch drawing of Poseidon's palace, which, to some extent, looks like a Greek temple.

Analysis

It is evident from the start of the book that Poseidon is fearsome because he can get angry and cause havoc. By the end of the book, nonetheless, Poseidon emerges as an amiable kind-hearted figure in need of a female companion. Having Amphitrite with him in the palace has a calming effect on him. A few times only, we read, does the god now get angry, shaking the seawaters with his trident. Ostensibly, the powerful god has been overcome by love and affection. Such strong emotions seem to foreground the god's anthropomorphism, so that he can fit in nicely with other Olympians. The illustrations reinforce the

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message that mythical creatures are human-like. Amphitrite is a young girl in a short white tunic playing with a ball at the seaside. Textual references, moreover, have implications for modern gender stereotyping, and this again strengthens the gods' anthropomorphism. In casting lots, Zeus, Hades, and Poseidon are described as "the lads" [*ta agoria* in Greek], with connotations of modern youth culture.

By contrast to the book about Hermes by the same author and illustrator,* where Hermes' childhood drives the narrative, Poseidon is presented as a mature bearded character. Poseidon's aged and serious looks are known from ancient art, where he is customarily conflated with Zeus. A famous Classical statue from ca. 470-460 BCE, for example, which is called 'The Artemision Bronze' in art-historical scholarship, may represent either Poseidon or Zeus.** The statue shows a massive bearded god preparing to strike his victim with either a trident or a thunderbolt. Of course, in a book for young children, Poseidon's propensity to punish is played down. An illustration shows, funnily, a red ribbon tied around Poseidon's trident. The mighty three-pronged implement resembles a gift with elaborate wrapping. With his blond hair, long white gown, and octopus, Poseidon's depiction is similar to that in another book in the series 'The twelve Gods of Olympus'.*** There are obvious overlaps in the narrative between the two books, with the Titans, the Giants, and the Olympians featuring in both books. Children and adult readers may benefit from reading the two books in tandem.

In both books there is an emphasis on competition, and the fight for supremacy and power. Here, however, Poseidon's power seems to be strongly associated with the natural world, mainly with water. Only on the last page do we see Poseidon riding a white horse, which stands for a mere visual marker of Poseidon having also the surname 'god of horses', as recorded by Pausanias (7.21.7). When Poseidon breaks up the mountains with his trident, water flows violently. Text and image here may remind readers of Biblical episodes, such as Moses' striking of the rock. Readers may also think of the Ionian philosophers' sixth-century BCE emphasis on the elements and natural phenomena. It may become questionable then whether water, rather than Poseidon's shaking of the trident, causes earthquakes. Greek myth here offers an excellent opportunity to teach children about the physical environment.

In the background information we read that Poseidon formed a strong

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	friendship with a dolphin. As god of the seas, which is emphasized also in the Homeric epics, Poseidon does not relate well to a civic context. It makes sense, therefore, not to have any mention in this book of Poseidon's and Athena's contest for the patronage of Athens.
	* epbooks.gr/product/100529/hermes (accessed January 29, 2019). **See (accessed January 29, 2019). *** epbooks.gr/product/101410/the-twelve-gods-of-olympus (accessed January 29, 2019).
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Amphitrite Chronos Demeter Giants Hades Hera Hestia Nereid(s) Olympus Rhea Titans Troy
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Desires Femininity Isolation/loneliness Love Magic powers Nature Punishment
Further Reading	Information about the book: epbooks.gr/product/100536/poseidon,-the-sea-god (accessed February 12, 2019).
Addenda	Published in Greek, 28 May 2012. Hardbound.

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