Ayelet Peer, "Entry on: Dionysus and the Land of Beasts (Heroes in Training, 14) by Craig Phillips, Tracey West", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice and Daniel A. Nkemleke. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2019). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/828. Entry version as of November 11, 2026.

Craig Phillips , Tracey West

Dionysus and the Land of Beasts (Heroes in Training, 14)

United States of America (2017)

TAGS: Aphrodite Apollo Ares Artemis Athena Bellerophon Chronos Demeter Dionysus / Dionysos Hades Hera Hermes Hestia Oracles Pegasus Poseidon Zeus





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

General information	
Title of the work	Dionysus and the Land of Beasts (Heroes in Training, 14)
Country of the First Edition	United States of America
Country/countries of popularity	worldwide
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2017
First Edition Details	Tracey West, *Heroes in training: Dionysus and the Land of Beasts.* New York: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, Aladdin Press, 2017, 112 pp.
ISBN	9781481488365 (ebook)
Genre	Action and adventure fiction, Alternative histories (Fiction), Bildungsromans (Coming-of-age fiction), Humor, Illustrated works, Mythological fiction, Novels
Target Audience	Children (6–10 years)
Author of the Entry	Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@gmail.com
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Creators



Craig Phillips (Illustrator)

Phillips is an Australian award winning illustrator who works with various publishers, including Random House, Simon & Schuster, Penguin, Scholastic, Bloomsbury, Egmont, Hardie Grant, and many more. As a child he was inspired by mythology and cartoons, and fantasy novels such as the *Hobbit* and *Conan the Barbarian*. He is still fascinated by the cartoons, comics, novels and stories that he enjoyed as a child and tries to capture that feeling in his work. His comics have been serialised in children's literary magazines and were collected and published as *Giants, Trolls, Witches, Beasts: Ten Tales from the Deep, Dark Woods* in 2017 by Allen and Unwin. He lives in New Zealand.

Source:

Official website (accessed: October 12, 2018).

Bio prepared by Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@gmail.com



Tracey West , b. 1965 (Author)

West is an American children's author. She has written about 200 books for children. She studied English and Journalism at Rutgers University, and now writes fiction and non-fiction books. Among her publications are *Dragon Masters*, *Cupcake Diaries*, *Pokémon* and more. West continues the *Heroes in Training* series which was created

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by Joan Holub and Suzanne Williams. (see under *Zeus and the Thunderbolt of Doom*)

Source:

Official website (accessed: August 16, 2019).

Bio prepared by Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@gmail.com

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Additional information

Summary

This is the fourteenth book in the *Heroes in Training* series (see *Zeus and the Tunderbolt of Doom*). In this installment, the Pythia tells the Olympians they must find the last Olympian. They head to the "Land of Grapes" and meet the rock band "Dion and the Goat Guys". The lead singer is Dionysus who turns out to be an Olympian as well. Meanwhile Apollo gets his own magical object, when his Lyre turns golden and whatever he sings about materializes. In the end the group must unite to vanquish Cronus' forces. Their next mission will be going to Olympus to fight Cronus' army.

Analysis

By the time the Olympians encounter Dionysus, the hierarchy in their group is already well established. Zeus is the unquestionable leader (although Hera still doubts his decisions) and all the other Olympians perfect their own special skills.

As always in the series, the new member is reluctant at first to join the unfamiliar group, in this case because he will lose his own position as a famous singe. Yet in the end, Dionysus understands that he is an equal part of this group and that they can all work well together, each of them having his/her own special talent. Dionysius' talent is that through his singing, and while wearing an ivory crown, he can force others to do as he sings/commands.

The focus of this series is on teamwork, family relations as well as growing up and finding one's true courage. Therefore each Olympian shares a special gift (a magical object and also a special talent) and their forces work better when combined. The author emphasizes that even within a team of equals, one does not lose his/her own unique identity.

The series also focuses on the maturation and transformation of Zeus until he slowly becomes the assertive leader of the group. When Cronus' soldiers attack, we get a glimpse at Zeus' thoughts: "Something kicked in – something deep inside him. His eyes scanned the battlefield. All the Olympians and their powers flashed through his mind. He knew what to do, but they didn't have much time." (p. 67). From an uncertain adolescent, Zeus becomes a calmer and more calculated leader, who can objectively assess his friends' strengths

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	and devise a plan for their salvation.
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Aphrodite Apollo Ares Artemis Athena Bellerophon Chronos Demeter Dionysus / Dionysos Hades Hera Hermes Hestia Oracles Pegasus Poseidon Zeus
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Adolescence Adventure Adversity Appearances Authority Character traits Conflict Emotions Family Friendship Gaining understanding Good vs evil Heroism Identity Individuality Journeys Judgement Learning Magic Maturity War
Addenda	The review refers to the Kindle edition.

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