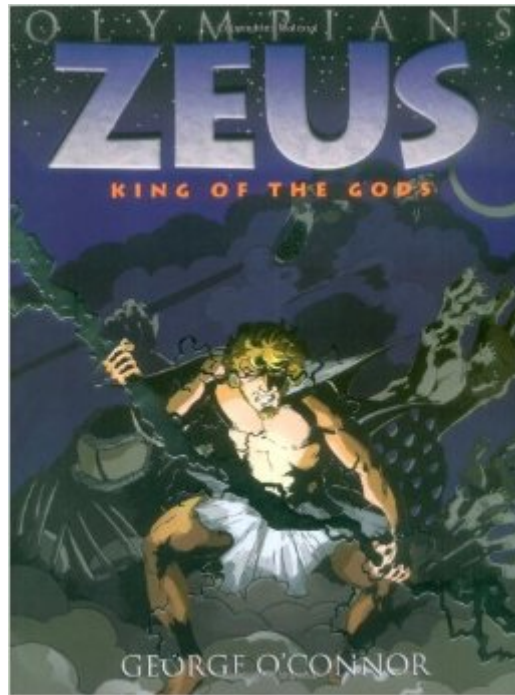


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Zeus: King Of The Gods (Olympians)



Synopsis

George O'Connor is a Greek mythology buff and a classic superhero comics fan, and he's out to remind us how much our pantheon of superheroes (Superman, Batman, the X-Men, etc) owes to mankind's ORIGINAL superheroes: the Greek pantheon. In OLYMPIANS, O'Connor draws from primary documents to reconstruct and retell classic Greek myths. But these stories aren't sedate, scholarly works. They're action-packed, fast-paced, high-drama adventures, with monsters, romance, and not a few huge explosions. O'Connor's vibrant, kinetic art brings ancient tales to undeniable life, in a perfect fusion of super-hero aesthetics and ancient Greek mythology. Volume 1 of OLYMPIANS, ZEUS: King OF THE GODS, introduces readers to the ruler of the Olympian Pantheon, telling his story from his boyhood to his ascendance to supreme power. This title has Common Core connections.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: GN640L (What's this?)

Series: Olympians (Book 1)

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: First Second; First Edition edition (January 5, 2010)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (25 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #92,674 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #142 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Greek & Roman](#) #163 in [Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Superheroes](#) #3078 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#)

Age Range: 9 - 14 years

Grade Level: 4 - 9

Customer Reviews

Girl walks into my library. I'm putting her age at around nine, maybe ten. Asks if I have any books on Ancient Greece. Turns out the kid is so into Greek mythology that she is willingly learning more about the true history behind that area of the world for her own personal knowledge. In other words,

she is every children's librarian's dream patron. I show her what we have and then we get to talking about mythology. She's a huge fan of the "D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths" so we start talking fiction. Has she read "The Lightning Thief" and other Rick Riordan titles? Roll of the eyes. Of course. Has she read Anne Ursu's Cronus Chronicles starting with "The Shadow Thieves"? Double roll of the eyes. All right. Has she read the brand-spanking new Olympians series coming out via First Second, illustrated by George O'Connor, and reimagined as graphic novels? Not only had she not heard of it but she was practically clawing my eyes out when I informed her that I didn't have a copy on the shelf at the moment. Kids love myths. Kids also love comics. Put the two together by a guy who actually knows how to turn a crazy myth into a comprehensible, even dramatic story, and you've got a natural pairing that is going to have your patrons, big and small, hungering for more. Buy in bulk."In the time before time, there was nothing, Chaos.

The story of the Greek gods is perfectly suited for adaptation to comics. They're all visually interesting--there's the Titans, all rocky and brown creatures that have sprung from the earth, and the Olympians, the fair-skinned and beautiful children of the Titans--and they possess powers and abilities that even the most powerful of superheroes would envy. Plus, the Greek Pantheon has been the inspiration for more than a few superheroes, some more obviously than others. Artist and writer George O'Connor, however, has gone back (way back) to the original source material for his Olympians series. Like all myths, the story has changed substantially in some places throughout the centuries. But O'Connor's painstaking research delves into the more authentic original versions. He begins his series, naturally, with Zeus, king of the gods and the one charged with bringing about the downfall of his own father. The hardest tasks always fall to the youngest children, don't they? Zeus is the only one of his siblings not swallowed whole by his father, Cronus. Instead, he is hidden away out of Cronus's sight until he reaches adulthood and begins to be spurred on to war against Cronus by his grandmother, Mother Earth herself. He does as she commands, and in doing so rescues the rest of Cronus's children, and the war between the Olympians and the Titans is waged in full, lasting years. It's a fantastic adventure story, and O'Connor illustrates it beautifully. He also includes several handy texts that help flush out his work here: lineage charts, a guide to the spelling of the names, a history and recommended reading. All of it is extremely useful, for both casual readers and students who wish to learn more.

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