

Incan/Mayan/South American

***City of the Beasts* by Isabel Allende** (HarperCollins, 2002)

When fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his individualistic grandmother on an expedition to find a humanoid Beast in the Amazon, he experiences ancient wonders and a supernatural world as he tries to avert disaster for the Indians.

***The Joshua Files: Invisible City* by M.G. Harris** (Macmillan, 2010)

Joshua's life was pretty average until his archaeologist father was reported dead in a plane crash. Josh's dad had been searching for the Mayan Codex, said to contain key information about the 2012 Mayan prophecy foretelling the end of the world. Was the crash simply a tragic accident, or is there more to his father's death than the authorities are willing to tell him?

***Feathered* by Laura Kasischke** (HarperTeen, 2008)

While on Spring Break in Cancun, Mexico, high-school seniors and best friends Anne and Michelle accept the wrong ride and Michelle is lost--seemingly forever.

***The Daykeeper's Grimoire* by Christy Raedeke** (Flux, 2010)

Caity MacFireland of San Francisco accompanies her parents to an isle off the coast of Scotland where she finds a Mayan relic and, guided by a motley crew of advisors, uncovers an incredible secret that an elite group of power-brokers will stop at nothing to control.

***Jake Ransom and the Skull King's Shadow* by James Rollins** (Harper Collins, 2009)

Connecticut middle-schooler Jake and his older sister Kady are transported by a Mayan artifact to a strange world inhabited by a mix of people from long-lost civilizations who are threatened by prehistoric creatures and an evil alchemist, the Skull King.

***The Jaguar Stones Book One: Middleworld* by J & P Voelkel** (Smith & Sons, 2007)

When his archeologist parents go missing in Central America, Max embarks on a wild adventure through the Mayan underworld in search of the legendary Jaguar Stones, which enabled ancient Mayan kings to wield godlike powers.

Asian

***Little Sister* by Kara Dalkey** (Puffin Books, 1998)

Thirteen-year-old Fujiwara no Mitsuko, daughter of a noble family in the imperial court of twelfth century Japan, enlists the help of a shape-shifter and other figures from Japanese mythology in her efforts to save her older sister's life.

***Half World* by Hiromi Goto** (Viking, 2010)

The human daughter of parents from the Half World, a limbo between Earth and the afterlife, Melanie Tamaki is forced to follow her missing mother to Half World, from which neither may return alive.

***Dragon Sword and Wind Child* by Noriko Ogiwara** (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1993)

Raised in the ancient Japanese village of Hashiba, fifteen-year-old Saya discovers that she is the reincarnation of the Water Maiden, princess of the underworld, who must try to reconcile the powers of heaven and earth.

***Silver Phoenix: Beyond the Kingdom of Xia* by Cindy Pon** (Greenwillow Books, 2009)

With her father long overdue from his journey and a lecherous merchant blackmailing her into marriage, seventeen-year-old Ai Ling becomes aware of a strange power within her as she goes in search of her parent.

***Amaterasu: Return of the Sun* by Paul D. Storrie** (Graphic Universe, 2007)

Retells the story of Amaterasu, the beautiful and kind Japanese sun goddess and her angry brother Susano, the storm god.

***Yu the Great: Conquering the Flood: A Chinese Legend* by Paul D. Storrie**

(Graphic Universe, 2007)

Retells the story of Yu's vow to end the terrible floods wreaking havoc in villages throughout China and his confrontation with Angry Yellow Emperor, the ruler of the gods.

***Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit* by Nahoko Uehashi** (Arthur A. Levine Books, 2008)

The wandering warrior Balsa is hired to protect Prince Chagum from both a mysterious monster and the prince's father, the Mikado.

Egyptian

***Sphinx's Princess* by Esther Friesner** (Random House, 2009)

Although she is a dutiful daughter, Nefertiti's dancing abilities, remarkable beauty, and intelligence garner attention near and far, so much so that her family is summoned to the Egyptian royal court, where Nefertiti becomes a pawn in the power play of her scheming aunt, Queen Tiye.

***The Alchemist: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel* by Michael Scott**

(Delacorte Press, 2007)

While working at pleasant but mundane summer jobs in San Francisco, fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, suddenly find themselves caught up in the deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient and powerful book holding the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.

***The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan** (Disney/Hyperion Books, 2010)

After their father's research experiment at the British Museum unleashes the Egyptian god Set, Carter and Sadie Kane embark on a dangerous journey across the globe--a quest which brings them ever closer to the truth about their family, and their links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

***Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos* by R.L. LaFevers** (Houghton Mifflin, 2007)

Twelve-year-old Theo uses arcane knowledge and her own special talent when she encounters two secret societies, one sworn to protect the world from ancient Egyptian magic and one planning to harness it to bring chaos to the world, both of which want a valuable artifact stolen from the London museum for which her parents work.

Greek

***The Iliad and The Odyssey* by Homer**

Possibly the most famous works in Western literature, they've been a part of the curriculum since schools were invented, and teachers still assign them today. These are the longest pieces we have from ancient Greece, and taken together we get a vivid picture of men and gods at war. Prose versions abound, but they lack the feel of Homers poetry. The Robert Fagles translation of the *Iliad* is the standard, and the Samuel Butler *Odyssey* is also popular.

***Wonder Woman* (DC Comics)**

Although her editors and writers sometimes forget, the world's longest running female character is an Amazon from ancient Greece, and her best stories have always been about the struggles against Gods and monsters.

Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan

An example of how potent Greek myths still are. Percy is revealed to be a demigod and son of Poseidon. Along with this knowledge comes adventure and responsibility.

Titans and Olympians, and Triumph of the Hero

(Time/Life Books, 1997)

Greek myths from the editors at Time/Life in two volumes. The first volume covers the pantheon, the next the great hero stories. Good concise versions of the classic stories illustrated with a superb selection of classic art.

Norse

***The Norse Myths* by Kevin Crossley-Holland**

(Pantheon Books, 1980)

Crossley-Holland's book is possibly the best single volume on Norse myths. Includes a prose version of the stories, but it has extensive notes about the source material.

Sagas of the Norsemen

(Time Life Books)

This is the Norse volume of the Time/Life series, and it's just as good as the Greek Volume.

***Odd and the Frost Giants* by Neil Gaiman**

Not surprisingly, Neil Gaiman is interested in the Norse myths. This slim volume sends an unlikely hero to the aid of the Norse Gods in one of their perpetual struggles against the Frost Giants.

***Runemarks* by Joanna Harris**

After the Ragnarok people have learned to live without magic and the gods, the old gods may not be completely gone after all.

Thor

A graphic novel series. Soon to be a major motion picture.

General Reference:

***Ultimate Encyclopedia of Mythology* by Arthur Cotterell,**

(Hermes House, 2003)

Comprehensive guide to classical mythology, plus, Celtic, Norse and Asian. Excellent single volume work, but bearing in mind what it covers, most of the entries in the book are rather short. Superb selection of art. Extremely popular book that is constantly checked out.

***Myths and Legends* by Philip Wilkenson**

(DK, 2009)

This book covers more ground than the previous volume; it also includes meso-American myth and Australian myth. The entries are short, but well written. The art is good, but not as well laid out as the *Ultimate Encyclopedia of Mythology*.

***Mesoamerican Myth: a Treasury of Central American Legends, Art and History* by Anita Ganeri**

(Sharpe Focus, 2008) World of Mythology Series

***Chinese Mythology: Stories of Creation and Invention* by Claude Helft**

(Enchanted Lion Books, 2007)

Collects eight creation myths from the Chinese tradition, each offering a view of origins that reveals a different aspect of Chinese thought.

***Chinese Myth: A Treasury of Legends, Art and History* by Philip Wilkinson**

(Sharpe Focus, 2008) World of Mythology Series

***Korean Folk-Tales* by James Riordan** (Oxford University Press, 2004)

A collection of twenty tales, including "The snail woman," "The distant journey," "The hare's liver," and "The sun, the moon, and the stars"

***Egyptian Myth: A Treasury of Legends, Art and History* by Ann Kramer**

(M.E. Sharpe, 2008) World of Mythology Series

Gods, Goddesses and Mythology (11 Volumes with Index)

(Marshall Cavendish, 2005)

Reliable all-purpose encyclopedia of mythology. Includes articles on general themes, such as Death in mythology and Animals in mythology, plus articles on a good assortment of deities. Includes non-European mythology, but is most comprehensive with Greek and Roman gods.

***Complete Idiot's Guide to Classical Mythology* by Kevin Osborn**

(McMillan, 1998)

You can't beat the idiot's guides, this one covers every important topic and character, including variations on some of the stories. The humorous art doesn't exactly convey the seriousness of the topic however.

***Celtic Gods and Goddesses* by RJ Stewert**

Slim, but well done volume with a good accounting of Celtic myth and some original illustrations.

Heroes of the Dawn

(Time/Life Books)

Celtic volume of the series.

Pantheon.org

Internet Sacred Texts Archive (sacred-texts.org)