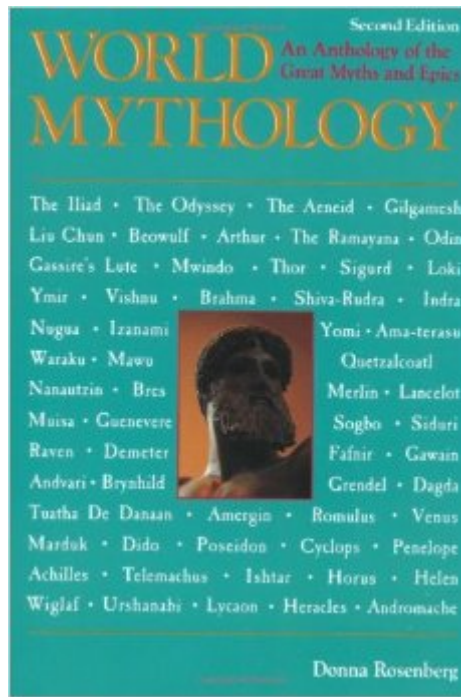


The book was found

World Mythology



Synopsis

This volume offers 59 of the world's great myths--including selections from The Iliad and the Odyssey, Beowulf, King Arthur and Quetzalcoatl. Each myth is accompanied by an introduction that offers historical background and suggests avenues for literary analysis.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was given this text for a high school class I taught on ancient civilizations. My initial excitement at the summaries and character lists preceding the myths, and the inclusion of great Yoruban and Hittite myths, disappeared once I read the texts. As others have noted, the author censors the myths greatly, removing any hint of sexuality. There is also little attempt to inject color into the narratives. The result are stories unnervingly different than the original, and one fears that many students will think that the Osiris or Aeneas or Telepinu of this book represents the true account. The Aeneid presentation is toothless and unengaging, a dry outline of segments of Virgil's great epic. Likewise, his predecessor Homer is reborn as what often reads like online encyclopedia summaries. Rosenberg misses the depth and vibrancy of these great tales, writing in the same voice for each tale. The myths thus start to run together, not because of the shared human condition that informed each, but because of unimaginative presentation. Reviewers who claim this will supplant Edith Hamilton are perhaps exactly who it was written for - those who do not understand the context of these myths and assume they can be paraphrased simply. Rosenberg does not strike one as a

student of world mythology, but someone with an agenda who rushed through various tales. I would not recommend this book for an educator. No translation has the same substance as the original, of course, but many paraphrases and translations on the market manage to communicate the wit and wonder of ancient thought.

I had to buy this for my college mythology class. It's a nice enough text, with many stories from many different cultures. Before each culture, we learn a little about the people and how their stories came about, which I thought helped me understand the stories more. My personal favorites were the Egyptian myths and the Greek myths, of which there were many. It also includes classics like 'King Arthur', 'Beowulf', and 'The Illiad'. It was interesting to note the similarities and differences between the cultures and their stories, many of which were being created at the same time years ago- but many miles apart. As for the flaws this book has, there is one major one. While I'm sure the translators translated to the best of their ability, if I had to read "flooded their hearts" one more time, I think I would scream. Okay I get it, they're happy, filled with joy, ecstatic, delighted.... but really? "Flooded"? So maybe that was the literal translation, but couldn't the editors have changed it a few times so that the readers didn't die from the repetition? Overall I would recommend this book, especially if you're interested in mythology. Just be aware that there are many different interpretations of myths, and the ones that are in this book may not be the most well known. Additionally I'm not sure if they cut out some parts because they knew this would be a school text. If you know the story of Osiris and Isis, you know that there was one piece of his body that a fish ate... that part of the myth isn't in this book- I guess because they deemed it inappropriate? There is a newer edition out however, which isn't exactly better than this one. At the very least, I had hoped they didn't use the word "flooded" so much in that one... But sadly not so.

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