

HEROES AND MONSTERS—CHARACTERS

LEGENDS OF ANCIENT GREECE

EXPLOITS OF PERSEUS TO THE DEATH OF HERCULES

DEMIGODS—SONS OF ONE GOD AND ONE MORTAL

- Hercules** (Son of Zeus) Greatest of Greek demigod heroes. Succeeded in twelve labors.
- Perseus** (Son of Zeus) Legendary hero who killed Medusa, a monster so ugly it turned people to stone.
- Theseus** (Son of Poseidon) Legendary hero, who killed the Minotaur. Ancient King of Athens.
- Pollux** (Son of Zeus) Prince of Sparta, renowned horseman, boxer, and Argonaut. Twin of Castor (a mortal) and brother of Helen.
- Aeneas** (Son of Aphrodite) Trojan hero who escapes from the Destroyed city and founds Rome.
- Minos** (Son of Zeus) King of Crete, patron of Daedalus, and keeper of the Minotaur.

MORTAL HEROES

- Jason** Led a voyage of 'Argonauts' on a quest to recover the Golden Fleece.
- Oedipus** Solved the mystery of the Sphinx, and became the King of Thebes. Then struck with tragedy.
- Bellerophon** Hero associated with Corinth, who killed the Chimera and rode the winged horse Pegasus.
- Castor** Mortal twin of Pollux, prince of Sparta and brother of Helen. Traveled with the Argonauts.
- Daedalus** Renowned craftsman, credited with inventing many ingenious devices, and designing the Labyrinth.
- Icarus** Son of Daedalus who perished when he flew too near the sun with waxen wings crafted by his father.
- Meleager** Hero who hosted the Caledonian Boar hunt, and was a suitor for Atalanta.
- Orpheus** Renowned musician, famed for leading the Argonauts past the Sirens and rescuing his wife from the Underworld.
- Midas** Phrygian king who was granted the "Golden Touch", but repented when he turned his daughter to gold.
- Eurystheus** King of Tiryns, loyal to Hera, who imposes twelve labors upon Hercules.

MORTAL HEROINES

- Andromeda** Ethiopian princess who is doomed to be sacrificed to a sea-monster, but rescued by Perseus.
- Eurydice** Wife of Orpheus, the only mortal ever rescued from the underworld.
- Antigone** Daughter of Oedipus, king of Thebes. Cares for him when he is exiled.
- Atalanta** Famed huntress who hunted the Calydonian Boar and was involved with Meleager.
- Deianeira** Third wife of Hercules who accidentally kills her husband with the Tunic of Nessus.
- Medea** Sorceress wife of Jason, who helps him gain the Golden Fleece.
- Circe** Sorceress daughter of Helios, who enticed sailors with her hospitality and then turned them into animals.
- Hippolyta** Daughter of Ares and Queen of the Amazons. Possessed a magical girdle.

PARTIALLY HUMAN CREATURES

- Centaur** Half-Man, half horse creatures that are usually prone to rowdy behavior. **Chiron**, the famous centaur tutor of Achilles, Jason, and Perseus, was exceptionally noble and wise. **Nessus** was another famous Centaur, known for killing Hercules.
- Satyr** Half-man, half goat creatures associated with Dionysus and drunkenness. **Pan** god of shepherds and flocks is the most famous satyr. **Silenus**, leader of the Satyrs, had the gift of prophesy when drunk.

MONSTERS

- Scylla** Six headed sea-monster that grabbed sailors from every vessel that approached her.
- Charybdis** Giant sea monster in the shape of a whirlpool, who consumed vessels that sailed too close.
- Harpies** Ugly winged bird-women, who torment people by snatching their food away.
- Sirens** Beautiful Sea Nymphs who lure sailors to their death with alluring song.
- Symplegades** (Clashing Rocks) A pair of Rocks in the Bosphorus that smash ships between them as they pass.
- Talos** Bronze giant who protect Crete by hurling boulders at passing ships.
- Cyclopes** One-eyed, man eating giants.
- Laestrygonians** Man-eating giants encountered by Odysseus
- Sphinx** Monster with a woman's head, a lion's body, wings, and a serpent's tail.
- Medusa** One of the Gorgon sisters, So ugly she turned humans to stone.
- Cetus** Sea Monster in the shape of a large shark or killer whale.
- Minotaur** Man-eating Creature with the head of a bull and body of a man. Lived in Cretan labyrinth.
- Procrustes** Bandit who stretched his victims, or cut of their legs in order to fit them into an iron bed.
- Chimera** Fire-breathing monster with a goat's body, a lion's head, and a serpent's tail.
- Pegasus** Winged Horse, fathered by Poseidon, captured by Bellerophon.
- Caledonian Boar** Giant Boar sent by Artemis to ravage Aetolia. Subject of a famous hunt.
- Geryon** Three-bodied, four winged giant.
- Antaeus** Giant wrestler, who drew his enormous strength from contact with his mother Gaia (earth).
- Nemean Lion** Giant lion, whose fur was invulnerable to mortal weapons.
- Hydra** Many headed serpent that grew two heads whenever one was cut off.
- Erymanthian Boar** Giant boar that haunted the region of Mt. Erymanthos, Achaia in Western Greece.
- Stymphalian Birds** Man-eating birds with beaks of bronze and metallic feathers.
- Ladon** Hundred headed sea serpent who guards the apples of the Hesperides.
- Cretan Bull** White bull that carried Europa to Crete. Father of the Minotaur.
- Mares of Diomedes** Fire-breathing, man-eating horses, kept by a Thracian giant.
- Cyberus** Three-headed dog that guarded the entry to Hades.
- Achelous** River God of the largest river in Greece, who fought Hercules for the hand of Deianeria.