

GREEK MYTHS IN POP CULTURE

10 modern retellings that keep
the myths alive through books,
shows, and games.



ETHAN CRAFTWELL

INTRODUCTION

There's a reason we keep returning to Greek myths

These stories, born thousands of years ago, still speak to something essential in us — **questions of fate and freedom, love and loss, identity and power.** They don't just survive in dusty pages; they live in the stories we tell today, in the characters we connect with, in the challenges we face.

This bonus is part of a broader journey we've created to help you explore how mythology continues to evolve — not only through gods and heroes, but **through the imagination of today's creators.**

Authors, game designers, filmmakers, and artists around the world are still fascinated by these myths, reimagining them with boldness and originality. They blend past and present to give us stories that feel both timeless and strikingly new.

In this pack, you'll find:

- **The Myth Map** – a visual timeline to navigate the evolution of myth
- **The Olympians Family Tree** – an illustrated snapshot of divine connections
- **Greek Myths in Pop Culture** – 10 one-page sheets exploring modern reinterpretations in books, films, games, and more

And if you're curious to go even deeper, we're developing a dedicated series on our blog:

👉 **[Ancient Myths in Modern Times – bamboo-circle.com/blog](https://bamboo-circle.com/blog)**

It's where we reflect on the meaning myths still hold today, from **Prometheus to Ragnarok, from justice to transformation.**

This is more than a bonus.

It's an invitation to rediscover myth as a living mirror — of the world around us, and the one within.

LORE OLYMPUS

A modern webcomic retelling the myth of Hades and Persephone.



CULTURAL SNAPSHOT

Lore Olympus is a visually stunning webcomic by Rachel Smythe that reimagines Greek gods in a contemporary setting. With bold colors and emotional depth, it explores themes of power, trauma, and love — centering on the evolving relationship between Hades and Persephone.



MYTH BEHIND THE STORY

The comic draws from the myth of Hades, god of the Underworld, who abducts Persephone and makes her queen. In classical versions, the story reflects control, seasons, and the tension between innocence and transformation.



MODERN TWIST

Rather than depicting an abduction, Lore Olympus reframes their relationship as consensual and tender. Hades is portrayed as thoughtful and respectful, while Persephone finds agency, emotional growth, and power in her own journey — challenging traditional interpretations.



DID U KNOW?

The myth of Persephone was used in Ancient Greece to explain the changing seasons: when she descends to the Underworld, her mother Demeter grieves, causing winter.



FEATURED GODS

The deities central to this retelling of the Hades and Persephone myth.



PERSEPHONE



HADES



APHRODITE



DEMETER

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS

*A bestselling book series that brings Greek gods, heroes,
and monsters into the modern world.*



CULTURAL SNAPSHOT

Created by author Rick Riordan, *Percy Jackson & The Olympians* is a middle-grade fantasy series that follows Percy, a modern-day demigod and son of Poseidon, as he discovers his heritage and battles mythological threats. It blends humor, adventure, and real myth in a way that's engaging for younger readers and mythology fans alike.



MYTH BEHIND THE STORY

The series draws deeply from a wide range of Greek myths, including the Twelve Olympians, monsters like Medusa and the Minotaur, and legendary heroes such as Achilles. The gods are portrayed with their traditional powers and personalities — but adapted to life in the 21st century.



MODERN TWIST

Greek mythology is transported into the modern U.S., with Mount Olympus above the Empire State Building and the Underworld beneath Los Angeles. Demigods attend a training camp (Camp Half-Blood), and ancient prophecies play out in modern settings. The result is a world where ancient myth blends with smartphones and skateboards — but the emotional core remains timeless.



DID U KNOW?

The name Perseus isn't just a coincidence — Percy is named after the Greek hero who slew Medusa, a myth he directly reenacts in the first book (*The Lightning Thief*).



FEATURED GODS

The Olympians and mythic beings guiding — and complicating —
Percy's journey.



ATHENA



POSEIDON



ZEUS



ARES



HADES



HERMES

GOD OF WAR

*A myth-shattering action game where Greek gods fall,
and vengeance becomes legend.*



CULTURAL SNAPSHOT

The God of War video game franchise reimagines Greek mythology through the eyes of Kratos, a Spartan warrior tricked by Ares into killing his own family. The 2018 reboot shifts from Greek to Norse mythology but keeps Kratos haunted by his past — including the brutal downfall of Olympus.



MYTH BEHIND THE STORY

The original saga draws from myths of Ares (god of war), Zeus, Athena, and the Titans. Kratos becomes the embodiment of wrath, eventually challenging and destroying much of the Olympian pantheon in a revenge-fueled arc that twists many familiar myths.



MODERN TWIST

Rather than adapting myths faithfully, the game repurposes them into a gritty narrative about trauma, loss, and redemption. Gods are flawed, mortal-like figures, and Kratos — an original character — becomes a symbol of defiance against divine fate. The 2018 sequel blends Norse myths while still haunted by Greek ones.



DID U KNOW?

Kratos is a real figure in Greek mythology — a minor personification of strength and authority. In the God of War series, that concept is reimagined into a full character arc of divine rebellion.



FEATURED GODS

The Olympians at the heart of Kratos' war — and victims of his vengeance.



ARES



ZEUS



ATHENA



KRATOS

HADES

*A fast-paced game of myth, rebellion,
and family drama set in the Underworld.*



CULTURAL SNAPSHOT

Hades is an award-winning indie video game where you play as Zagreus, the rebellious son of Hades, attempting to escape the Underworld. The game combines Greek myth, roguelike mechanics, and witty dialogue — all wrapped in stunning visual storytelling.



MYTH BEHIND THE STORY

Zagreus is a lesser-known deity in Greek mythology, sometimes associated with Dionysus or Orphic mysteries. In the game, he's reinvented as Hades' son, interacting with gods like Athena, Ares, and Hermes as he tries to escape his father's realm.



MODERN TWIST

Instead of glorifying the gods, Hades presents them as flawed, funny, and emotionally complex. The Underworld is depicted as both prison and home, and Zagreus's repeated escapes become a metaphor for personal growth and breaking toxic cycles.



DID U KNOW?

In some Orphic traditions, Zagreus was seen as an earlier incarnation of Dionysus — torn apart by Titans and reborn, symbolizing death and rebirth.



FEATURED GODS

The divine forces shaping Zagreus's journey — allies, rivals, and family.



ZAGREUS



HADES



NYX



THANATOS



HYPNOS



MEGAERA

TROY

*A sweeping Hollywood retelling of the Trojan War
with more swords than sorcery.*



CULTURAL SNAPSHOT

Directed by Wolfgang Petersen and starring Brad Pitt as Achilles, *Troy* is a cinematic retelling of Homer's *Iliad*. The film presents the fall of Troy as a gritty, human war drama — trading divine intervention for political ambition and raw emotion.



MYTH BEHIND THE STORY

The film is loosely based on *The Iliad*, which recounts the final days of the Trojan War. Key figures include Achilles, Hector, Helen, Paris, and Agamemnon, with divine influence from gods like Apollo, Athena, and Aphrodite in the original myth.



MODERN TWIST

Troy strips away the gods and magic, focusing instead on the human drama and military strategy. Achilles becomes a philosophical warrior haunted by mortality, and the famous Trojan Horse becomes an act of cunning, not divine inspiration.



DID U KNOW?

In Homer's version, Achilles is killed by Paris with the help of Apollo — not shown in the film. The 2004 version reimagines Achilles' death as a purely human betrayal.



FEATURED GODS & HEROES

The legendary figures at the heart of the war — mortal and divine.



ACHILLES



HECTOR



PARIS



HELEN

CLASH OF THE TITANS

*An explosive, effects-heavy ride through Greek myth,
led by a demigod with a sword and a grudge.*



CULTURAL SNAPSHOT

Clash of the Titans reimagines the myth of Perseus, son of Zeus, as an action-packed epic filled with monsters, gods, and destiny. It's a loose retelling of the original 1981 cult classic, with modern CGI and a darker tone.



MYTH BEHIND THE STORY

Based on the myth of Perseus, this story combines several ancient myths: slaying **Medusa**, rescuing **Andromeda** from a sea monster, and defying **Hades**. In classical mythology, Perseus is one of the most celebrated heroes, aided by gods and magical gifts.



MODERN TWIST

The film amplifies conflict between gods and men. Hades becomes the main antagonist, and Perseus rejects his divine heritage to remain mortal. The Kraken, originally from Norse myth, is added for dramatic flair — creating a mash-up of mythologies.



DID U KNOW?

In the original myth, Perseus rides Pegasus after slaying Medusa. The film reorders events and fuses elements from other legends to heighten cinematic tension.



FEATURED GODS & HEROES

A mix of mythic figures reinterpreted with monsters, magic, and mayhem.



PERSEUS



ZEUS



HADES



MEDUSA



ANDROMEDA

IMMORTALS

A visually intense, stylized retelling of Greek myths — where gods descend like warriors and Titans rise in chaos.



CULTURAL SNAPSHOT

Directed by Tarsem Singh, Immortals tells the story of Theseus, a mortal chosen by Zeus to fight the ruthless King Hyperion, who seeks the legendary Epirus Bow to free the Titans. The film blends mythological inspiration with brutal battles and surreal, hyper-stylized visuals.



MYTH BEHIND THE STORY

The plot loosely references several myths: the hero **Theseus**, the Titanomachy (war between gods and Titans), and the imprisonment of the Titans in Tartarus. It also touches on myths involving **Hyperion**, **Oracles**, and **Zeus's divine judgment**.



MODERN TWIST

In Immortals, gods appear not as guiding mentors but as fierce warriors with armor and swords. The Titans are portrayed as monstrous prisoners rather than divine equals, and the story is recast as a dark war epic rather than a classical heroic journey. Myth is used more as aesthetic and theme than strict storytelling.



DID U KNOW?

In Greek myth, Hyperion is a Titan of light — not a villainous king. The film invents his warlike role, using his name and aura but creating a wholly new antagonist.



FEATURED GODS & HEROES

A mythic world reimagined through war, prophecy, and vengeance.



THESEUS



ZEUS



ATHENA



POSEIDON



HYPERION



THE TITANS

WONDER WOMAN (DC UNIVERSE)

A superhero saga rooted in myth — where Amazons, gods, and destiny collide.



CULTURAL SNAPSHOT

Wonder Woman, created by William Moulton Marston and adapted across comics, TV, and film, reimagines Greek mythology through the lens of superhero storytelling. Diana, princess of the Amazons, leaves her island to confront war, injustice, and her divine origins — blending action, feminism, and mythic legacy.



MYTH BEHIND THE STORY

The Amazons are inspired by mythological warrior women, said to be daughters of Ares or Artemis. In the DC mythos, they are created by the gods to protect humanity. Diana (Wonder Woman) is often depicted as the daughter of Zeus, and she battles figures like Ares and encounters Hades, Hera, and others.



MODERN TWIST

Rather than a traditional Greek myth, Wonder Woman is a reinvention: gods become part of a cosmic origin story, the Amazons are immortal warriors, and Diana is a bridge between divine power and mortal compassion. The 2017 film in particular reinterprets Ares as the god behind World War I.



DID U KNOW?

In early comics, Wonder Woman's powers came from magical items and Amazon training — not divine lineage. The modern origin retconned her as a demigoddess, daughter of Zeus.



FEATURED GODS & HEROES

Mythological forces reimagined as mentors, enemies, and ancestral powers.



DIANA



ZEUS



ARES



HIPPOLYTA

BLOOD OF ZEUS

A dark, animated reimagining of Greek myth — where divine bloodlines and ancient betrayals collide.



CULTURAL SNAPSHOT

Blood of Zeus is an adult animated series from Netflix that blends traditional Greek myths with a new narrative. The show follows Heron, a mortal outcast who discovers he is the son of Zeus, and is caught in a cosmic war between gods, giants, demons, and fate itself.



MYTH BEHIND THE STORY

The series builds on the classic trope of a **demigod son of Zeus**, echoing heroes like **Heracles** or **Perseus**. It draws from the **Titanomachy**, the creation of giants from Titan blood, and familiar deities like **Hera**, **Zeus**, and **Hermes** — though all reimagined in tone and character.



MODERN TWIST

Rather than adapting a single myth, Blood of Zeus invents a new hero (Heron) and intertwines him with established lore. Gods are shown as deeply flawed and emotionally volatile. Hera becomes a tragic antagonist, and the series explores power, vengeance, and divine family dysfunction.



DID U KNOW?

The concept of giants being born from Titan blood spilled onto the Earth comes directly from Hesiod's Theogony, though the show takes creative liberties in how they're used.



FEATURED GODS & HEROES

A new hero and familiar gods locked in a war of blood, betrayal, and legacy.



HERON



ZEUS



HERA



HERMES



SERAPHIM

HADESTOWN (BROADWAY MUSICAL)

A haunting folk-opera retelling of Orpheus and Eurydice — where the gods still pull the strings, and love walks a fragile line.



CULTURAL SNAPSHOT

Hadestown is a Tony Award-winning musical by Anaïs Mitchell that blends Greek myth with American folk, jazz, and blues. Set in a Depression-era-inspired underworld, it retells the tragic love story of Orpheus and Eurydice — with Hades as an industrialist king and Persephone a goddess caught between worlds.



MYTH BEHIND THE STORY

The musical draws from the myth of **Orpheus**, the gifted musician who descends into the Underworld to rescue **Eurydice** — only to lose her again by looking back too soon. It also incorporates the seasonal myth of **Hades and Persephone**, symbolizing life, death, and renewal.



MODERN TWIST

Instead of ancient Greece, Hadestown takes place in a stylized, working-class dystopia. Gods are portrayed as political forces: **Hades** rules with order and fear, while **Persephone** embodies joy and rebellion. The love stories are timeless, but the framing is fresh, raw, and socially charged.



DID U KNOW?

Hadestown began as a 2010 concept album before becoming a stage production. Many of the lyrics remain unchanged from the original songs — blending mythology with contemporary social commentary.



FEATURED GODS & HEROES

Ancient myths given new rhythm, romance, and resistance.



ORPHEUS



EURYDICE



HADES



PERSEPHONE



HERMES