

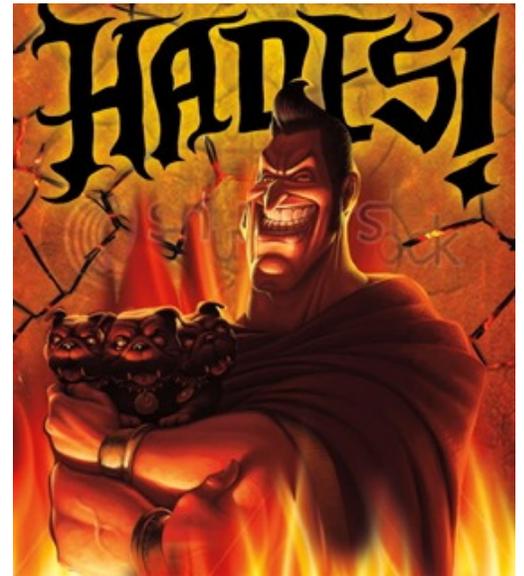
A MYTH-O-MANIA INTERVIEW WITH KATE McMULLAN

by students from Sacajawea Elementary in Richmond, WA

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1. Why did you choose Hades to narrate the Myth-o-Mania books?

Hades is King of the Underworld, but his little brother, Zeus, is the all-powerful Ruler of the Universe. Wouldn't you hate it if *your* little brother were Ruler of the Universe? I'm thinking that Hades would hate it, too. This situation gives him motivation to retell all the myths that go on and on about 'brave and mighty Zeus.'



2. Why did you decide to “fracture” the Greek myths instead of writing original stories with the Greek gods as characters?

Rick Riordan, in his Percy Jackson books, brilliantly cast the Greek gods as characters in stories. He brought many readers to the Greek myths, and I'm grateful to him for that.

One reason I've always loved the Greek myths is that the gods and goddesses are so naughty. They lie and cheat, they're angry and jealous and vengeful – just like us mortals at times. When I write Myth-o-Mania books, I hope to retell the Greek myths in a funny, appealing way that will introduce kids to the deities in all their complexities. I feel there's tons of great material to be excavated from the myths themselves.

3. What kind of research did you do before writing the M-o-M books?



I read lots of myths, by Ovid and Homer and Hesiod, as well as more modern retellings, like *The D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths*. Different writers tell different versions of the myths, so that gave me some wiggle room, but I try to be true to the widely accepted versions.

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4. Have you thought about other mythologies as jumping off points for your stories?

When I wrote *Under the Mummy's Spell*, I read a lot of Egyptian mythology, and it's fascinating. But for now, I'm sticking with the ancient Greeks.

5. Are you adding to the Myth-o-Mania series?

Yes! I just finished a draft of Book 9. It's a Trojan War story, HIT THE ROAD, HELEN! After that, I plan to retell The Odyssey. I don't have a title for that one yet -- open to suggestions.

If you've got a good one, e-mail it to me kmcm@optonline.net and if I use it, I'll thank you in the book.

