

Year 7 Reading List Options: Myths and Legends

Modern –

Asha & the Spirit Bird by Jasbinder Bilan (2019) (288 Pages)

Asha lives in the foothills of the Himalayas. Money is tight and she misses her papa who works in the city. When he suddenly stops sending his wages, a ruthless moneylender ransacks their home and her mother talks of leaving. From her den in the mango tree, Asha makes a pact with her best friend, Jeevan, to find her father and make things right. But the journey is dangerous: they must cross the world's highest mountains and face hunger, tiredness – even snow leopards. And yet, Asha has the unshakeable sense that the spirit bird of her grandmother – her nanijee – is watching over her ...

A Year Full of Stories: 52 folk tales and legends from around the world by Angela McAllister (2016) (128 Pages)

Although pitched for a slightly younger age range, McAllister's stories provide a comprehensive review of folk tales and legends. This rich resource collects folk tales from home and legends and myths from distant lands to commemorate the changing seasons, cultural events, and international festivals throughout the year.

A Thousand Ships by Natalie Haynes (2020) (365 Pages)

In the middle of the night, a woman wakes to find her beloved city engulfed in flames. Ten seemingly endless years of conflict between the Greeks and the Trojans are over. Troy has fallen. From the Trojan women whose fates now lie in the hands of the Greeks, to the Amazon princess who fought Achilles on their behalf, to Penelope awaiting the return of Odysseus, to the three goddesses whose feud started it all, these are the stories of the women embroiled in the legendary war. Powerfully told from an all-female perspective, in *A Thousand Ships* Natalie Haynes puts the women, girls and goddesses at the centre of the story.

National Geographic Kids – 5 Terrifying tales from Greek Mythology (<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/greece/greek-myths/>)

The 'National Geographic for Kids' provides a brilliant starting point for young learners to start exploring Greek mythology. This website link will guide pupils through 5 obscure tales. Pupils are encouraged to use this website as a guide but are encouraged to research their own Greek myths and legends to discuss at the end of this guided reading topic.

Classics –

Homer's Iliad and Odyssey retold by Gillian Cross (2018) (319 Pages) [Reading in Class]

Gillian Cross's brilliant retellings and Neil Packer's clever illustrations bring to life Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, two of the greatest stories ever told. Multi-award-winning

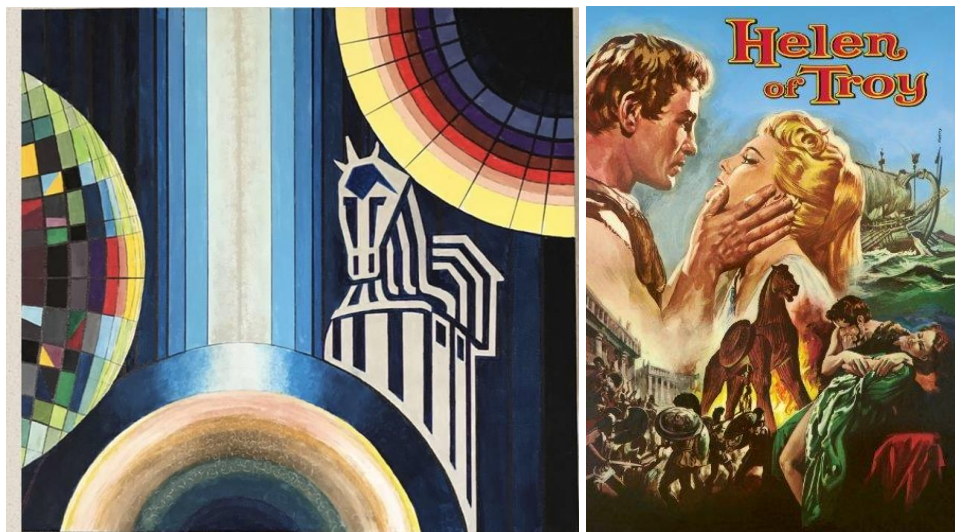
author Gillian Cross makes two of the greatest stories in the world come alive for children and teenagers in her strong, clear, deceptively simple retellings, which are faithful to the spirit and structure of Homer's epic poems, and this new bind-up in a friendly format comes complete with an introduction and a generous selection of Neil Packer's fabulous illustrations in black and white.

The Iliad & The Odyssey by Homer by Homer (Unknown but presumed to be the 7th or 8th century BC) (340 Pages)

If readers feel confident with the retelling of Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, to challenge themselves, pupils can compare the retelling to Homer's original. The Iliad is an ancient Greek epic poem, traditionally attributed to Homer. Set during the Trojan War, the ten-year siege of the city of Troy (Ilium) by a coalition of Greek states, it tells of the battles and events during the weeks of a quarrel between King Agamemnon and the warrior Achilles. The Odyssey is one of two major ancient Greek epic poems attributed to Homer. It is, in part, a sequel to the Iliad, the other Homeric epic. The Odyssey is a fundamental work in the modern Western canon, being the oldest extant piece of Western literature, second to the Iliad.

Art and History –

Trojan War in Popular Culture –



The Trojan War has been in the popular discourse throughout history, as readers, it is important to evaluate why the Trojan War has remained so popular and in what mediums it has been popular.

Pupils will discuss modern art, literature, music, and film to consider the importance of the Trojan War and why it continues to be a part of contemporary society.