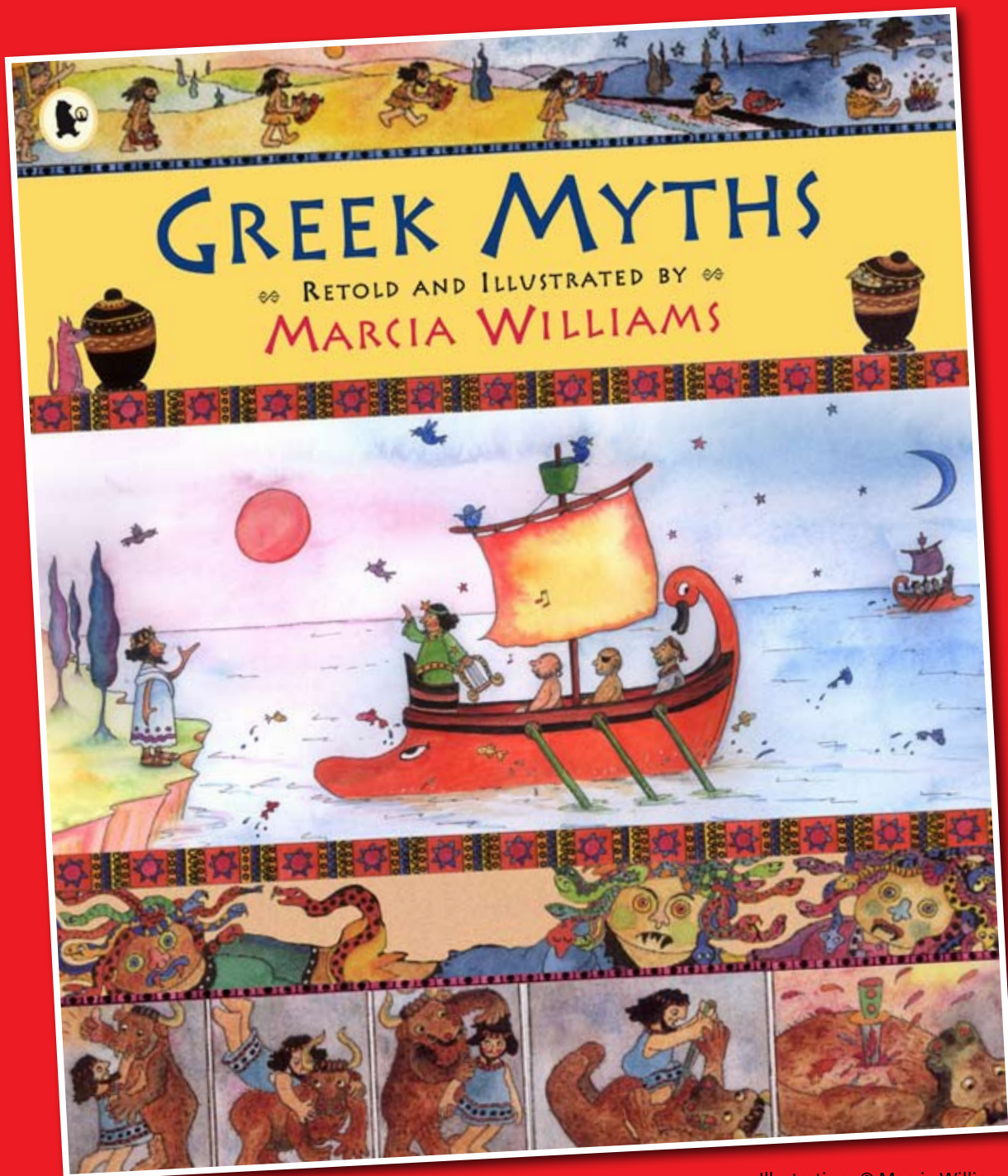


SCHOLASTIC

Book  
Talk

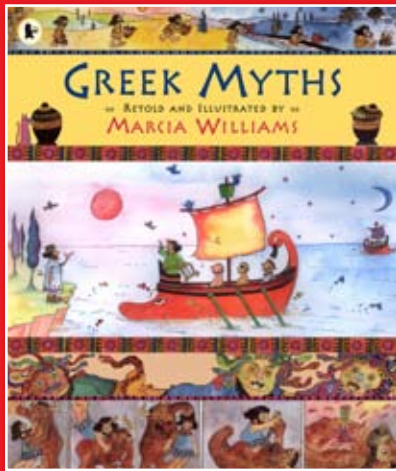
AGES 6+



Illustrations © Marcia Williams

9789999939074

Getting children reading. Giving books to schools.



AGES 6+

Author/ Illustrator	Marcia Williams
Publisher	Walker Books

## Using this book in your classroom

### Themes

These stories explore many different themes, including **love, friendship, ambition, courage** and **ingenuity**. They link well with history topics on the **Ancient Greeks**.

### Summary

Marcia Williams has retold eight famous Greek myths in her own highly distinctive style. Children will love the humour and panache with which she tells the stories of Pandora's box, Arion and the dolphins, Orpheus and Eurydice, the twelve labours of Hercules, Daedalus and Icarus, Perseus and the Gorgon Medusa, Theseus and the Minotaur, and the contest between Arachne and Athene. These are faithful retellings of the original myths, but in comic strip style, with funny dialogue to keep children engaged and entertained.

### Did you know?

- Marcia Williams had no formal art training – she has just always loved drawing. She calls herself 'an obsessive illustrator'.
- As well as Greek myths, Marcia has retold several of Shakespeare's plays and Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*.



## The Story Session

### 1. Introducing the book

Briefly share any prior knowledge the children may have about Greek myths. For example, they may be familiar with some of the Greek gods, such as Zeus and Athene. Flip through the book together and ask the children what kind of book they think this is. Draw out that it is a comic strip retelling of some famous Greek myths.

### 2. Reading the stories

- Start by reading the story of Pandora's box together. If appropriate, ask volunteers to help you by reading the speech bubbles while you read the narrative text.
- Ask the children if they would have wanted to open the box, if they were Pandora. Why do they think Pandora couldn't resist opening the box, even though she had been told not to? Suggest that it could have been because she was selfish and used to getting her own way. Share the children's ideas about what the messages of this story might be.
- If you have time, ask the children to choose another story from the list on the back cover, and read it to them.

### 3. Follow-up

- In pairs, ask the children to think of another traditional story they know (not necessarily a Greek myth) and have a go at retelling this story in comic strip form. Encourage them to include some jokes and funny comments, as Marcia Williams does.
- Encourage the children to read other versions of the same Greek myths – for example many of the same stories are in *The Orchard Book of Greek Myths* by Geraldine McCaughrean (Orchard Books) or *Greek Legends* by Terry Deary (Scholastic Children's Books).



Visit [scholastic.co.uk](http://scholastic.co.uk) for more resources