

BARTON

LIBRARY

Dare to know

Mythological Fiction

Fiction based on mythological themes.

A narrow genre which draws heavily from the themes, symbolism, and tropes of mythology, folklore, legends, and fables. These ancient tales once explained the mysteries of the universe and its elements—the weather, the world, the physical laws, the existence of living beings—as well as historical events. The genre often introduces figures from African, East Asian, Greek, Norse, Roman, or Indian mythology as characters, or adapts older myths and sets them in a fantasy world or the real world. These deities and heroes may factor directly into the book, or the focus may be on their descendants. Mythological fiction can blend with the **fantasy fiction** genre.

Common Elements

Familiar mythological archetypes
Deities
Demi-gods

Mystery
Magic
Heroic protagonist

Benefits of Reading

Allows readers to dive into ancient civilizations, myths and legends, and mythical creatures
Provides readers with the opportunity to understand different cultures, beliefs, and traditions

Offers readers an enjoyable gateway to ancient texts
Reveals to readers a variety of perspectives and interpretations of ancient myths
Unlocks the readers' imagination

Modern Literary Examples

<i>Birds of Paradise</i> (2021) by Oliver K. Langmead
<i>Blackwood</i> (2020) by Michael F. Smith
<i>The Kappa Child</i> (2002) by Hiromi Goto
<i>The Penelopiad</i> (2005) by Margaret Atwood

<i>Stone Blind</i> (2022) by Natalie Haynes
<i>A Touch of Darkness</i> (2021) by Scarlett St. Clair
<i>The Women of Troy</i> (2021) by Pat Barker