

Bookfolio for Hercules

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Recommended for: [Grades 5-8](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Mythology](#)

Story Summary: Hercules is born the twin of Iphicles, his older but smaller brother, to Prince Amphitryon and Princess Alcmena of Thene. Hercules, whose name means Earth's glory, "was so big that people believed his father must have been a god. Hera, believing her own husband Zeus to be the father of Hercules, plots Hercules' death. She tells Hercules that he must serve the slovenly King Eurystheus for twelve years, and he must perform the impossible tasks that Eurystheus demands if Hercules is to be purged of evil that may cause him to kill his own family. Thus, Hera succeeds in her plot to trick Hercules into arranging his own doom; and Hercules, the gentle giant, begins his saga of labors. He defeats the Nemean Lion, the Hydra, Geryon a three-bodied ogre, the Spear-birds, the Octopus of Ner, Ladon who guards the golden apples, and Anteus the earth giant. All of his victories cannot save him from Hera's wrath, however. She plots to have the beautiful Dienera present him a garment that will burn him to death with its poison fabric. Upon his death, Athena asks Zeus to let Hercules join them on Mt. Olympus to teach the gods about humanity, and he achieves immortality.

Read-aloud Recommendation: "The Nemean Lion," page 23.

The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:

R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing

Hercules - Independent Activities	Skills
1. Heroes in Mythology (Comparing Greek heroes)	R , W
2. Twelve Labors Map (Mapping characters' quests)	D , R , S
3. The Language of Myths (Identifying vivid language)	D , R
4. Hera's Fury (Writing a speech)	S , W
5. Words from the Myths (Making a glossary)	R , S , W
6. The Herbs of Hercules (Researching a topic)	R , S , W
Hercules - Group Activities	Skills
1. A Secret Meeting (Presenting a Readers Theatre)	S
2. Mythical Creatures (Making a picture dictionary)	D , R , W
3. Gifts from the Greeks (Defining Greek word parts)	R , W
4. The Triple Terror Speaks (Writing a dialogue)	S , W
5. Endangered Waters (Researching a topic)	R , W
6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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