

Hera: The Goddess and her Glory

Olympians Book 3

By George O'Connor

For Discussion:

1. Hera is the Goddess of Marriage, yet her own marriage to Zeus is full of fights. Who do you think is to blame for that, Zeus or Hera? (Watch out for lightning bolts and giant snakes when answering this question)
2. When Jerry Siegel and Joe Schuster created Superman in the 1930's, they consciously modeled him on Heracles. What are some things that Superman and Heracles share in common?
3. Heracles and Jason are both two of the greatest heroes of ancient Greece, and are both very connected to Hera, but their respective relationships with her are very different. Why do you think that is?
4. Many of the names in this book are very familiar, like Atlas and Heracles. What are some other things you can think of that have the same or similar names to things in Greek mythology?
5. Do you think it's fair that Hera punishes the children and girlfriends of Zeus? Is it fair that Zeus keeps cheating on Hera?
6. The number twelve comes up a lot in the Greek myths. Heracles performs twelve labors; there are twelve Olympians, and twelve Titans before them. Why is the number twelve so important? What other numbers come up a lot in the Greek myths?
7. Heracles is given a choice between a hard life, where he would have to work for everything but would make him be remembered forever, and an easy life where everything would be given to him. Did he make the right choice? What would you choose?
8. Very few people believe in the Greek Gods today. Why do you think it is important that we still learn about them?