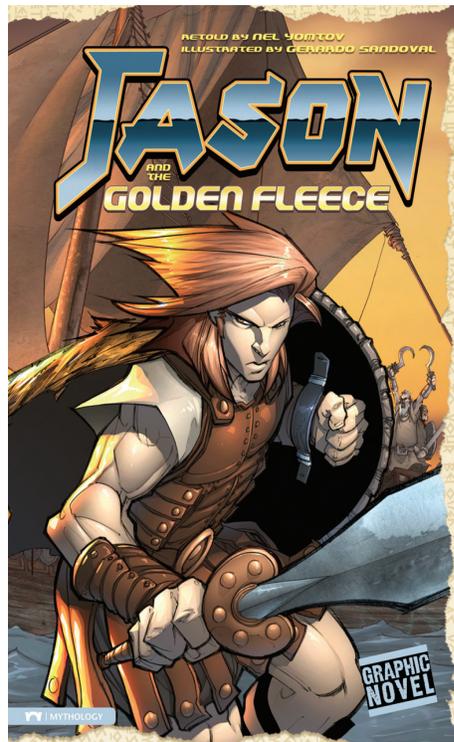




READER'S THEATER



Jason and the Golden Fleece retold by Nel Yomtov

Characters:

- Narrator** - reads above grade level
- Jason** - struggling reader
- Chiron** - reads at grade level
- Pelias** - reads below grade level
- Old Woman/Hera** - reads slightly below grade level
- Nurse** - reads slightly above grade level

Genre: Mythology

Ages: 10-15

Jason and the Golden Fleece page 1

Narrator: Many years ago, in the land of Iolcus, King Aeson and Queen Polymele played with their son, Prince Jason. He would someday inherit the throne. But Aeson's half-brother, Pelias, had other plans. One day, he and his soldiers stormed into Aeson's home.

Pelias: Your throne is now mine, Aeson!

Narrator: Pelias would have killed Jason, but the boy's nurse snuck him out of Iolcus.

Nurse: Fast, Jason! Faster! We must reach Mount Pelion before your uncle catches us!

Narrator: They made their way to the lair of a strange creature.

Nurse: Master Chiron, you must save him!

Narrator: The centaur listened patiently to their story.

Chiron: The boy will be safe here at my school.

Jason: Thank you, sir.

Narrator: Chiron taught his students how to fight and hunt. Jason was honest, intelligent, and a natural leader. He quickly became Chiron's best student.

Chiron: Excellent work, Jason! Soon I'll have nothing left to teach you!

Narrator: Then one day, Chiron decided it was time for Jason to know the truth about his past.

Chiron: Years ago, Iolcus was ruled by a good king named Aeson. His evil half-brother stole the throne, and I was given Aeson's son to raise. You are that son, Jason. The time has come for you to reclaim your throne from Pelias. Prepare to leave right away.

Jason: What?!

Narrator: Soon after, Jason packed his things and set off.

Jason and the Golden Fleece page 2

Chiron: Never forget what you've learned here. I know that one day, you will become a great hero!

Narrator: Later that day, Jason was crossing a river when suddenly an old woman called out to him.

Old Woman/Hera: Help me to the other side, stranger! Are you just going to stand there? Or will you help me cross this stream?!

Jason: I will carry you, ma'am. Please climb on my back.

Old Woman/Hera: You're getting my clothes wet, you clumsy boy!

Jason: I'll try to be more careful. Oh! I've lost one of my sandals.

Old Woman/Hera: Forget about your sandal, Jason.

Narrator: Suddenly, the old woman transformed into a beautiful goddess.

Old Woman/Hera: I am Hera, queen of the gods. I came to test you.

Jason: By the gods!

Old Woman/Hera: Because of your kindness, I will help you whenever you are in need.

Jason: Thank you, goddess.

Old Woman/Hera: Go now to Iolcus and face your uncle Pelias.

Narrator: Soon, Jason arrived in Iolcus.

Pelias: Look! A man with one sandal!

Narrator: Pelias was instantly nervous. Legend said that a stranger with one sandal would come to claim his throne. Later, in the court of King Pelias ...

Jason: I am Jason, son of Aeson. I have come to reclaim my father's crown.

Jason and the Golden Fleece page 3

Pelias: Welcome, my nephew! The throne is yours — but first you must prove yourself worthy. Tell me, what brave deeds have you done?

Jason: None, but —

Pelias: I see. Then are you brave enough to return the Golden Fleece to Greece?

Narrator: Jason thought carefully. The Golden Fleece had been held in the kingdom of Colchis for many years, where it hung in an olive tree guarded by a deadly serpent.

Jason: For the glory of Greece, I accept your challenge!

Pelias: Then when you succeed, my throne will be yours!

(To himself) Which will never happen, you foolish boy!

Will Jason be able to find and return the Golden Fleece to Greece? What challenges will he face along the way? And will he finally be able to reclaim his father's throne? To find out, read *Jason and the Golden Fleece*, a graphic mythology tale from Stone Arch Books.

THE END