

Reading the Past in the Present: Classical Reception in Children's and YA Fiction

This roundtable is proposed on behalf of *Calliope's Library: Books for Young Readers*, a curated collection of book recommendations for children and young adults at all stages of reading ability. The roundtable will discuss current and historical trends in children's and young adult fiction in books inspired by the ancient world and Greco-Roman mythology. While the roundtable will acknowledge the enduring importance of the Percy Jackson and Harry Potter books, it will strive to expand the discussion to include less well-known works, particularly books with casts that have greater gender and racial diversity and books by diverse authors.

Topics include but are not limited to, the prevalence of the Hades and Persephone myth in paranormal romance, the popularity of Roman Britain in time slip novels, and the pervasiveness of divine generational conflict in urban fantasy. This roundtable will also share favorite mythological and historical fiction with the intention of generating a list of books that can be useful for pedagogical purposes. Finally, the roundtable will brainstorm ideas and exchange practical tips on how to promote classically themed books through public programming such as book giveaways, reading contests, and public read-aloud/Storytimes at libraries.