Allison Rosenblum, "Entry on: Keep a Lid on It, Pandora! (Myth-O-Mania, 6) by Bob Lentz, Kate McMullan , Denis Zilber", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice and Elżbieta Olechowska. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/267. Entry version as of October 30, 2026.

Bob Lentz , Kate McMullan , Denis Zilber

Keep a Lid on It, Pandora! (Myth-O-Mania, 6)

United States (2012)

TAGS: Athens Caucasus Mountains Chaos Cronus / Kronos Cyclops / Cyclopes Delphic Oracle Epimetheus Gaia / Gaea Hades Harpies Hecatoncheires / Hundred-Handed Hephaestus Hestia Hypnos Olympus Ouranos / Uranus Pandora Pandora's Box Parnassus (Mount) Poseidon Prometheus Rhea Sibyl Styx Titans Underworld Zephyrus Zeus





Courtesy of Capstone Global Library Ltd., publisher.

General information	
Title of the work	Keep a Lid on It, Pandora! (Myth-O-Mania, 6)
Country of the First Edition	United States of America
Country/countries of popularity	United States
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2012
First Edition Details	Kate McMullan, *Myth-O-Mania: Keep a Lid on It, Pandora!* Mankato, Minn.: Stone Arch Books, Capstone, 2012, 192 pp.
ISBN	9781434234391
Genre	Humor, Mythological fiction, Novels, Teen fiction*
Target Audience	Crossover (Teens grades 4–8)
Author of the Entry	Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University, allie.rose89@gmail.com
Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Lisa Maurice, Bar-Ilan University, lisa.maurice@biu.ac.il Elżbieta Olechowska, University of Warsaw, elzbieta.olechowska@gmail.com

This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children's and Young Adults' Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of "Artes Liberales" of the University of Warsaw.

Creators



Bob Lentz (Illustrator)

Lentz graduated from Minneapolis College of Art and Design before beginning a 5-year career working on a newspaper in Rochester, MN and then becoming a graphic designer at Capstone Press, specifically in their Graphic Library brand. He worked on the first 32 titles, including the Graphic Science sub-series. He became Senior Designer and stayed with Capstone for four years before becoming Art Director for Stone Arch Books. He developed several of Capstone's proprietary brands, including Hello Genius, Capstone's first venture into baby board books, DC Super-Pets!, and Goodnight Baseball.

Source:

Online interview (accessed: June 27, 2018).

Bio prepared by Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University, allie.rose89@gmail.com



Photo courtesy of Kate

Kate McMullan , b. 1947 (Author)

Grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, but now lives in Sag Harbor, New York. McMullan began her career as a teacher after which she studied Early Childhood Education. She worked as a teacher in Los Angeles and an American Air Force base in Germany. She is married to and works with the illustrator Jim McMullan.

She has commented: "As soon as I could, I began reading my way through the Children's Room shelves at our local public library in St.

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McMullan.

Louis, Missouri. I carried my books home, settled in with a cat or dog or my guinea pigs on my lap, and read for hours. My favorites were Greek myths, Nancy Drew mysteries, Pippi Longstocking, and animal stories, but only if the animals didn't die. I also read *Little Women* (it was sad but acceptable if people died) and *The Borrowers*, about tiny people who lived behind the walls of houses. I loved comic books, too, and *Mad Magazine*. When asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, I answered, "A reader."

"After college, I taught fourth grade in an inner-city Los Angeles school and on an American Air Force base in Germany. Every day after lunch I read to my students, and in time I started to wonder if I could write books like the ones I read to my class. I tried, but after a day of teaching, I had little energy left for writing, so I moved to New York City, where I'd heard writers lived, and took a job in publishing, which was less tiring than teaching."

"And I kept writing – stories about Fluffy, the Classroom Guinea Pig (who will never die), a Greek Mythology series, books set in a medieval school for dragon-slaying, and picture books with art by my favorite illustrator, Jim McMullan." (source, see here, accessed: February 21, 2019).

Since she started writing, McMulland has published over 100 children's books. Her book *Pearl and Wagner: One Funny Day* was a Geisel Honor Book, and her book *I Stink!* was a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honor Book.

Sources:

Official website (accessed: June 26, 2018).

Profile at penguinrandomhouse.com (accessed: June 26, 2018).

Profile at harpercollins.com (accessed: June 26, 2018).

Profile at amazon.com (accessed: February 21, 2019).

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Bio prepared by Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University, allie.rose89@gmail.com and Tikva Schein, Bar-Ilan University, tikva.blaukopf@gmail.com

Questionnaire

1. What drew you to writing / working with Classical Antiquity and what challenges did you face in selecting, representing, or adapting particular myths or stories?
I have always loved the ancient Greek myths, even as a child. I write books for kids, and thought it would be fun to retell some of the myths with a bit of twist, and what I came up with was using Hades as my narrator. In some versions of the myths, Hades is Zeus's older brother, and I thought having his little brother be the ruler of the Universe would annoy Hades quite a bit, so I figured that would make his retelling funny and engaging for kids.

2. Why do you think classical / ancient myths, history, and literature continue to resonate with young audiences?
I believe it's because the dieties are, for the most part, depicted as very human, with great character flaws as well as the capacity to do great good. I think humans connect with these gods and goddesses because of they show different aspects of the human heart.

3. Do you have a background in classical education (Latin or Greek at school or classes at the University?)
NO.

4. What sources are you using? Scholarly work? Wikipedia? Are there any books that made an impact on you in this respect?
I used the *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths* and *Theoi.com* as well as various other sources. Although I wasn't telling the myths in the traditional way, I did try to stay faithful to the way each myth is usually presented.

Prepared by Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University, allie.rose89@gmail.com

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Photo courtesy of Denis Zilber.

Denis Zilber , b. 1962
(Illustrator)

Denis has a diploma in Advanced Character Animation Studies and has won the following awards for his freelance work as illustrator and character designer: “CG Choice” award of CGSociety.org (3 times), Animation Mentor Showcase 2009, *Frontpage Exellence* award of 3DTotal.com (twice). He has publications in *Expose 4 – Finest digital art in the known universe* by Ballistic Publishing, Australia, as well as in *2D Artist magazine* and *CGWorld magazine*.

Source:

Official website (accessed: May 29, 2018).

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Additional information

Summary

Keep a Lid on it, Pandora! Tells the story of Pandora's box and Prometheus stealing fire with a contemporary twist, narrated by Hades, and is part of a series of Greek myths told from Hades' point of view.

Hades claims that Zeus edited all the original myths in order to make himself look more powerful. He goes on to give a different explanation for the myth of Pandora's Vase, specifically that he and Zeus had made a bet on whether Pandora would open it or not. Since Zeus bet that she would, he finds ways to trick her into opening the box. Pandora's story starts with Prometheus' creation of men and stealing fire from the gods to give to them. In punishment, Zeus creates Pandora. Each of the gods give Pandora a gift. Zeus gives her extreme curiosity, and then gives her the box, which he eventually tricks her into opening.

The author includes a glossary, discussion questions, and a few writing prompts.

Analysis

Keep a Lid on it, Pandora! explains the story of Prometheus and Pandora's vase in a unique way and using very simple language (refers to mankind as "guys"). Hades, as the narrator, claims that the original tale is extremely one-sided, and he endeavours to give a different side to Pandora's story. The book does a good job of explaining the background of the animosity between Zeus and Prometheus, as well as humanizing the characters and making them more relatable. The story ends with Hades getting ready to tell the "truth" about another story from Greek mythology that has been misrepresented.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts

Athens Caucasus Mountains Chaos Cronus / Kronos Cyclops / Cyclopes Delphic Oracle Epimetheus Gaia / Gaea Hades Harpies Hecatoncheires / Hundred-Handed Hephaestus Hestia Hypnos Olympus Ouranos / Uranus Pandora Pandora's Box Parnassus (Mount) Poseidon Prometheus Rhea Sibyl Styx Titans Underworld Zephyrus Zeus

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Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Adversity Character traits Relationships Sacrifice Tricksters
Addenda	Cover, map, and interior design by Bob Lentz.

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