Ayelet Peer, "Entry on: Hercules Finds His Courage (Taki and Toula Time Travelers, 1) by Josef Hill, Elena Paige", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice and Susan Deacy. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2019). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/847. Entry version as of November 22, 2026.

Josef Hill , Elena Paige

Hercules Finds His Courage (Taki and Toula Time Travelers, 1)

Australia (2017)

TAGS: Eurystheus Heracles Hercules





We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Hercules Finds His Courage (Taki and Toula Time Travelers, 1)
Country of the First Edition	Australia
Country/countries of popularity	Australia
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2017
First Edition Details	Elena Paige, *Hercules Finds his Courage*, Taki and Toula Time Travelers, Book 1. Moonee Ponds, Vic.: Angelos Publishing, 2018, 31 pp.
ISBN	9781925557435 (ebook)
Genre	Didactic fiction, Fiction, Illustrated works, Mythological fiction, Time-Slip Fantasy*
Target Audience	Children (5–10 (primary school age))
Author of the Entry	Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@gmail.com
Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Lisa Maurice, Bar-Ilan University, lisa.maurice@biu.ac.il Susan Deacy, University of Roehampton, s.deacy@roehampton.ac.uk

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



Josef Hill (Illustrator)



Elena Paige (Author)

From her website: “Elena Paige is a children's and teen author with a background in counselling psychology.” She has written numerous series for children; among them *Taki and Toula Time Travelers*, *The Magicians*, *Evie Everyday Witch* and more.

Source:

Official website (accessed: September 24, 2019)

Bio prepared by Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@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.

Additional information

Summary

In the first installment of this time-traveling series, two modern day Greek children from Crete, Toula (8 years old girl) and Taki (6 years old boy) find strange traditional Greek shoes called tsarouhia in their mother's chest. They find out that wearing these shoes enable them to time-travel to ancient Greece. In this book, they arrive to find a frightened man hiding from a large bull. The children help him by calming the bull with some food. The man reveals to them that he is Hercules and that he is actually scared of everything. The children then help Hercules find courage to complete his tasks. At the end of the story there is very brief information about Hercules, explaining that he was part god and agreed to serve King Eurystheus.

Analysis

The aim of the series is to empower children to discover their inner strength and confidence. The big mythological heroes are thus described as frightened and in need of help, and the two young children help them and save the day.

In a twist of the myth, the children engage in the following conversation with Hercules:

'"But you are just a myth," said Toula.

"That means you aren't real," added Taki.

"I am as real as you are," said Hercules.

"But in the stories you are strong and brave," said Taki.

"Now that is a myth," said Hercules.' (pp. 16–17).

What is real and what is a myth? Hercules is real in this story, but the "heroic Hercules" is a myth, unrelated to the actual man the children meet. Hercules admits he is just lucky, not brave. Thus the children's courage is real and they become the true heroes of the story, and not the allegedly heroic character; they are stronger and more courageous than Hercules. They encourage him to believe in himself and continue fulfilling his tasks (which are not specified).

The pedagogic message here (the author emphasizes her knowledge

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.

	of psychology) is that self-belief is more important that physical strength and that every child can become a hero. Courage is not a matter of muscles or appearance, but it lies within, in the willingness to admit and face our deepest fears.
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Eurystheus Heracles Hercules
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Adventure Humour Magic Psychology Travel

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.