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Hercules on the Bayou

By: Connie Morgan

Illustrated by: Herb Leonhard

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Review

This is a delightful blending of Cajun folklore and Greek mythology. In this story, Hercules is hidden by “the queen” in Louisiana where he is raised by local Cajun folk, Claude and Claudette. The story carefully refers to Zeus and Hera only as “the king” and “the queen,” avoiding any need to delve deeper into explanations. Hercules quickly grows strong and is relied upon and loved by all of the locals. The jealous queen sets various tasks before Hercules, which the author cleverly blends with traditional pourquoi tales like “Why do mosquitoes buzz in our ears?” and “When did crawfish boils get started?” Bright, colorful illustrations bring the story to life, and a glossary in the back describes some of the Cajun and mythological terms.

Jolene C. DeFranco

Recommended

August 1, 2016

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Product Description

Including battles with a twelve-clawed crawfish and the taming of a raging hurricane, this Cajun reimagining of the Hercules legend stirs together myth, culture, and Louisiana spice. Sent down to the hot and humid bayou from his kingdom in the clouds, Hercules must perform four daring labors to escape the immortal queen’s wrath. Luckily, Hercules has godlike strength, bravery, and his new bayou family to help him conquer every incredible feat! This pourquoi tale is told in the style of a gentle Cajun storyteller and features vibrant and whimsical illustrations. Written by an award-winning children’s educator, this adventure will have you shouting “Aiyee!” from start to finish.

Media Type Book
Binding HC
Price \$16.00
Grade (as stated by Reviewer/SLC) 3-5
Genre Fiction
Genre Type Action & Adventure
Content Subject 1 Action & Adventure
Content Subject 2 Fables, Folktales, Myths & Legends
Time Period NA
Region North America
Story: Action Packed
Characters/Characterization: Unusual/Quirky/Eccentric
Language: Engaging
Tone/Mood: Happy/Joyful/Upbeat/Heartwarming
Pace: Lively/Fast
Setting: Immersive