THE PIG SCROLLS

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2008 Grades 6-8

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The Pig Scrolls by Paul Shipton. Candlewick Press, 2005. 288 pages.

Summary
This hilarious story is set in Ancient Rome. Gryllus, who was once a crewman of Odysseus, tells how he was transformed into a pig and then chosen to save the world. Circe had turned Odysseus's crew into pigs, but when she changed the crewmen back into their original forms, Gryllus, who was enjoying his life of leisure, elected to stay a pig. Unfortunately, his quiet life in the woods was interrupted one day by Sibyl, who informed Gryllus that he had been chosen by Apollo to save the cosmos. Gryllus thought Sibyl was crazy and ignored her, so Sibyl kidnapped him. On their journey to Delphi, they encountered monsters, gods, a strange goat herder and a man wearing trousers. Gryllus came to realize that the fate of the world really was in the hooves of a talking pig.
Read an excerpt:
http://www.candlewick.com/cat.asp?browse=Title&mode=book&isbn=076362702x&bkview=p&pix=y

Author's Biography
Paul Shipton was born in Manchester, England on June 15, 1963. He attended Emmanuel College at Cambridge and Manchester University and completed an MPhil in Philosophy and an MA in Classics. Mr. Shipton spent many years teaching English as a foreign language, including one year in Istanbul. While teaching, Mr. Shipton wrote his first book *Zargon Zoo*. A few years later he wrote his breakthrough book *Bug Muldoon: The Garden of Fear*. Mr. Shipton and his family have recently moved to the United States where he works as a freelance editor and writer. He and his family now have homes in Cambridge, England and in Madison, Wisconsin. (Penguin UK, http://www.penguin.co.uk/nf/Author/AuthorPage/0,,1000048737,00.html)

Other Titles by Paul Shipton
Bug Muldoon: The Garden of Fear

Related Titles
The Lighting Thief by Ron Riordan.
Ithaka by Adele Geras.
Wabi: A Hero's Tale by Joseph Bruchac.
The Extraordinary Adventure of Alfred Kropp by Richard Yancey.
Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad by Rosemary Sutcliff.
The Penelopiad: The Myth of Penelope and Odysseus by Margaret Eleanor Atwood.
The Wanderings of Odysseus: The Story of the Odyssey by Rosemary Sutcliff.

Classroom Connections

EDSITEment--Epic poem Lesson Plan
http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=587 . This lesson plan teaches students about epic poems. It includes an interactive assessment, guiding questions, and two suggested activities.

Teaching Tips from Mythweb
Mythweb http://www.mythweb.com/teachers/tips/tips.html. This site includes creative writing ideas related to myths, such as how myths have influenced our language and what a "hero" is.

Greek Myths
- Read aloud the book as an introduction to a study of the epic poem *The Odyssey*.
- Provide maps of the world and have students use the information found on http://www.irasov.com/odyssey_map.htm to trace the journeys of Odysseus.
- Use the following web site for excellent activities and lesson plans for Ancient Greece and Greek mythology. http://www.geocities.com/sseagraves/greekunit.htm
- Use the following web site for teaching *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. http://www.webenglishteacher.com/classmyth.html

Web Sites

Encyclopedia Mythica
http://www.pantheon.org/
Internet encyclopedia of mythology, folklore and religion.

Mythweb
http://www.mythweb.com/
Information on the heroes, gods, and monsters of Greek mythology.

The Odyssey
http://library.thinkquest.org/C0119204/odyssey.html
Brief descriptions of the gods/goddesses, humans and main characters.

Greek Mythology for Educators
http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/greekmyths.htm
This is the Internet School Library Media Center Greek Mythology page. It is a preview site for educators and provides materials on Greek mythology, the history of Greece and related topics.