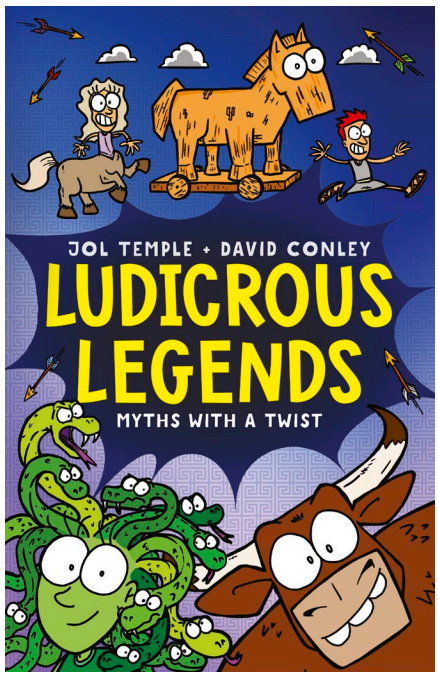
TEACHERS' HUB

BOOK CLUB

Ludicrous Legends: Myths with a Twist



BOOK SUMMARY

Ludicrous Legends is a hilarious new junior fiction series that reimagines myths in a fun way for early readers, 7 to 10 years old.

Hector and his best friend, a centaur named Hylo, are about to be tested on Greek mythology by their teacher Mr Socrates. Join them as they come to grips with the mighty Minotaur, the famous Trojan ~~Horse~~ Cow, and the terrifying Medusa whose snake-hair is definitely not keen on a haircut.

A ludicrous, light-hearted and very loose retelling of three classical legends.

FOR KIDS WHO ENJOY:

- Laughing out loud
- History and mythology
- Graphic novels
- Horrible Histories, Frog Squad and Funny Kid

KEY FACTS

Author: Jol Temple

Illustrator: David Conley

Reading Age: 7-10 years

Formats: Paperback, eBook and audio book

To find the opening pages of *Ludicrous Legends*, along with a video from the creators and further reading suggestions, visit www.teachershub.com.au/book-club/ludicrous-legends.

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Discussion Questions

1. Which part of each story do you think has been 'twisted'?
2. What are some challenges that a teacher with a class that includes Greek gods, mythical creatures and humans might face?
3. The stories that Hylo and Hector share are told in the style of a comic strip. Do you this helped to make the ludicrous legends funnier?
4. Many of David Conley's illustrations include hidden elements, such as the turtle poking its tongue out on p. 43, or the bats flying back and forth in the story 'In a Minotaur Two'. Which is your favourite?
5. If your parents were to give you 12 labours as punishment for doing something really bad, what do you think they be?
6. In 'The Trojan Cow', the Greeks leave the giant cow at the front gate of Troy. What animal do you think might have been more successful in tempting the Trojans to bring it inside the city gates?
7. Can you find your way through the Minotaur's labyrinth on p. 51?
8. The Minotaur makes some good points about the fact that cows don't eat humans, but humans do eat cows. Do you think this could explain why he gets so angry about people coming into his labyrinth?
9. Medusa is clearly a bored with her hair, but the snakes make it hard for her to change it. Do you have any suggestions for what she could do with her snake-hair?
10. If you could be any of the mythological creatures in *Ludicrous Legends*, which one would you be?

New Vocabulary

- **Ludicrous:** something foolish, unreasonable or ridiculous
- **Legend:** an old and popular story that may have an element of truth to it
- **Myth:** a story from the past made up to explain natural occurrences or events, or to explain religious beliefs or customs
- **Tactic:** the method/s used to achieve a specific outcome
- **Jerky:** meat that has been sliced into strips and dried
- **Cisthene:** the ancient Greek coastal town where Medusa hid from people to avoid killing them

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About the Author

Jol Temple is an internationally awarded children's author of over 30 books for kids. Together with his partner Kate Temple, his works include the Bin Chicken picture book series and the Charlotte Huck Award winner *Room On Our Rock*. He also writes popular junior fiction series including *Mega Rich Guinea Pigs*, *Frog Squad*, *The Underdogs* and many more. An ambassador for Raising Literacy Australia, Jol regularly appears at Australian writers' festivals and school author presentations.

About the Illustrator

David Conley is an illustrator who lives in Canberra with his wife, two kids and one moody Jack Russell terrier. His first drawing as a two-year-old was of a giraffe and following on from that lofty success he has been releasing his own books since 2019. David is fairly good at soccer, not too bad at tenpin bowling and has quite the talent for losing his car keys five minutes before he needs to drive across town for an appointment.

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