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Gilgamesh The Hero



Synopsis

This is one of the oldest stories in the world, and it's about things that still matter to us today: friendship, fame, courage, happiness. Gilgamesh and Enkidu are friends -- best friends. Together they can work wonders, fight monsters, brave earthquakes, travel the world! But waiting in the dark is the one enemy they can never overcome. Retold by award-winning author Geraldine McCaughrean, and illustrated with great power by David Parkins, *Gilgamesh the Hero* is a story that will linger in the imagination long after the book has been put down.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 780L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers; Second Printing edition (June 20, 2003)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (27 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #47,801 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in Â Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural #3594 in Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 - 8

Customer Reviews

We believe Gilgamesh was a historical king of Uruk in Babylonia, on the River Euphrates in what is now Iraq, who lives around 2700 B.C.E. "The Epic of Gilgamesh" is the oldest recorded story in the world, having been originally carved on twelve stone tablets, which have broken apart in the past four thousand years. These twelve tablets, written in the Akkadian language by an author named Shin-eqi-unninni, were found in the ruins of the library of Ashurbanipal, king of Assyria (668-627 B.C.E.) at Nineveh (the library was destroyed by the Persians). In "Gilgamesh the Hero," Geraldine McCaughrean creates a free adaptation from a variety of translations of those tablets. Each chapter reflects what is found on one of the twelve tablets (the order of which is still open to interpretation). Young readers will learn over how Gilgaemsh, the hero who saw all, became friends with Enkidu the

wild man, slays the Bull of Heaven, survived the Great Flood, and seeks the secret of immortality. The chief narrative thread is the friendship of Gilgamesh and Enkidu, and how the latter's death teaches Gilgamesh to be a kinder, better ruler who "walked through darkness and so glimpsed the light."McCaughrean is able to have it both ways with her retelling of these ancient myths. She maintains the classic nature of the epic while telling the story in a way that makes the ancient story accessible to young readers in today's world. The illustrations by David Parkins are in this same mode, complementing the stories nicely.

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