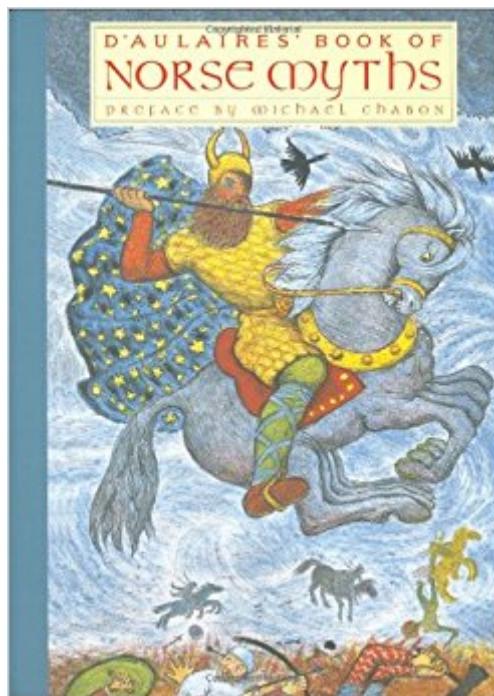


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# D'Aulaires' Book Of Norse Myths



## Synopsis

The Caldecott medal-winning d'Aulaires once again captivate their young audience with this beautifully illustrated introduction to Norse legends, telling stories of Odin the All-father, Thor the Thunder-god and the theft of his hammer, Loki the mischievous god of the Jotun Race, and Ragnarokk, the destiny of the gods. Children meet Bragi, the god of poetry, and the famous Valkyrie maidens, among other gods, goddesses, heroes, and giants. Illustrations throughout depict the wondrous other world of Norse folklore and its fantastical Northern landscape.

## Book Information

Series: New York Review Children's Collection

Hardcover: 160 pages

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Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.8 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 224 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #8,044 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Norse #427 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure #6819 in Books > Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

"A true mythological tour de force." • The New York Times "Out of print for many years, *Norse Gods and Giants* has been very handsomely reissued by the The New York Review Children's Collection and retitled *D'Aulaires Book of Norse Myths*. Featuring a sturdy sewn binding, the book arguably represents the pinnacle of the d'Aulaires' achievement as storytellers and artists. The prose seems livelier and more robust in the Norse myths than in the Greek. Their retelling of the Greek myths for children had to pull its punches somewhat—but since sex doesn't feature as prominently in Norse mythology, this book is able to stay scrupulously faithful to the *Edda* and still maintain its PG rating. But not to worry: there's still a lot of drinking, fighting and bad

behavior, particularly on the part of fiery Thor, who is forever whacking frost giants on the head with his hammer, and the highly entertaining Loki, who is one of the most complicated and devious characters in anybody's mythology, anywhere. Loki is the Bart Simpson of Norse mythology, forever pulling pranks, forever getting caught and forever talking his way out of the consequences." • The New York Times Book Review" [These] works, especially the books of Norse and Greek myths, were and remain crucial to me, and now to my own children. The interest in mythology that was kindled by those two books has endured throughout my life, and has directly influenced my own writing in countless ways. • The Norse book was always my favorite, though. I must have read it a dozen times at least by the time I was nine or ten." •

Michael Chabon

Ingri Mortenson and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire met at art school in Munich in 1921. Edgar's father was a noted Italian portrait painter, his mother a Parisian. Ingri, the youngest of five children, traced her lineage back to the Viking kings. The couple married in Norway, then moved to Paris. As Bohemian artists, they often talked about emigrating to America. "The enormous continent with all its possibilities and grandeur caught our imagination," Edgar later recalled. A small payment from a bus accident provided the means. Edgar sailed alone to New York where he earned enough by illustrating books to buy passage for his wife. Once there, Ingri painted portraits and hosted modest dinner parties. The head librarian of the New York Public Library's juvenile department attended one of those. Why, she asked, didn't they create picture books for children? The d'Aulaires published their first children's book in 1931. Next came three books steeped in the Scandinavian folklore of Ingri's childhood. Then the couple turned their talents to the history of their new country. The result was a series of beautifully illustrated books about American heroes, one of which, Abraham Lincoln, won the d'Aulaires the American Library Association's Caldecott Medal. Finally they turned to the realm of myths. The d'Aulaires worked as a team on both art and text throughout their joint career. Originally, they used stone lithography for their illustrations. A single four-color illustration required four slabs of Bavarian limestone that weighed up to two hundred pounds apiece. The technique gave their illustrations an uncanny hand-drawn vibrancy. When, in the early 1960s, this process became too expensive, the d'Aulaires switched to acetate sheets which closely approximated the texture of lithographic stone. In their nearly five-decade career, the d'Aulaires received high critical acclaim for their distinguished contributions to children's literature. They were working on a

new book when Ingri died in 1980 at the age of seventy-five. Edgar continued working until he died in 1985 at the age of eighty-six. Michael Chabon is the author of several books, including *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, *Wonder Boys*, *The Amazing Adventures of Cavalier and Klay*, *The Yiddish Policeman*, *Union, Manhood for Amateurs: The Pleasures and Regrets of a Husband, Father, and Son* and, most recently, *Telegraph Avenue*.

My 10, 7, and 4 year old sons love these stories (well, the 4 year old is touch and go, but...). We've read D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths out loud three times already, and will definitely be reading the Norse Myths book repeatedly, as well. I find them to strike an excellent balance between staying true to the (sometimes complicated) classic stories, while distilling them in a way young readers can understand. The illustrations are a nice complement to the flow of the stories. We are dedicated library users, but both D'Aulaire's Greek Myths and the Norse Myths are books we decided we need to own.

Absolutely Perfect for my two kids, ages 5 and 7. They have a pretty good vocabulary though, and a willingness to learn new words. This book is written at a level that is definitely appropriate for kids being read to. The language is relatively easy, though it would be challenging for them to read on their own due to some of the word choices (which are perfect and fit the style). I see this as an advantage since it is just challenging enough for them to be learning new words as well as new stories, without being so challenging that they get bored. The book also leaves out the gory details of what the gods are doing when they sneak away together, and so on; so parents need not worry about it being \*too\* colorful. Yet the stories are told true to their origins. My kids beg for this book every night -- definitely get this one.

This is the classic, the standard by which the telling of Norse mythology is measured. I first read it as an older child of ten, and it still holds up perfectly to this day. Get this and d'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths for the best bedtime reading you could ever give to a kid.

I have the D'Aulaires Greek Myths and love it. Super glad that I added the D'Aulaires Norse Myths to our collection. My oldest son 13 is reading this to further his knowledge of the myths. However, I'm reading it to my little ones ages 8 & 10 to give them an understanding of the myths to go along with our Viking study in our homeschool. I believe this book is great for any age 6 and above. I find this book interesting myself. Written in a story manner, not textbook. Never boring! The pages are

very delicate though they are made of a color page like paper. The illustrations aren't as vivid like I would hope. The greek myth book has vivid pages. I do love the hard cover of this book. Another wonderful book to further our learning as a homeschooling family!

This is just a fabulous book. There are wonderful illustrations and the stories are written to entertain children as well as adults. I used this for a unit I taught to 3rd and 4th graders on Norse culture, and actually read it myself first to better understand the people. It is well written, but not too long so as to loose the interest of younger minds. There is a great glossary, and a fabulous tree in the back to show the realms of the Norse worlds. This is a must have for any child interested in The Norse culture or mythology in general.

This is a great book to read to your children if you are of Nordic, Swedish, Icelandic, and Danish decent, as this is the old Sagas from the Poetic Edda and Prose Edda, wrote for reading to your child. The illustrations are fantastic, and is very well done. I have both Eddas and read this to my daughter so she will have an appreciation for our ancestors. Highly recommend this book to anyone wishing to continue the old Scandinavian way.

I love the d'aulaire books. This one is no exception - it's great for kids and grown-ups alike, and there's lots of pithy myths here to read to the kids and talk about with them. Such great lessons in most of them.I have three quibbles:1. Women in these myths are minimized...even more than I believe they are in the actual unadulterated original versions. The goddesses were strong and independent, but the book makes them out to have been largely marginalized and unimportant. Even Freya is largely just for show.2. There's no pronunciation guide. One of my professor friends pointed out that j is pronounced like a y, which helped enormously, but it would be nice if there were a guide.3. There's a brief post-ragnarokk chapter. That makes no sense. It's very monotheistic, too, which is weird. I'm half inclined to just rip it out - the world should really end and that's it. My wife says it's not appropriate for my five-year-old daughter even though I read it to her every night.

A great and wonderful book, even in this edition. Do not buy this book thinking it will be a reproduction of what you remember from your childhood. The book is slightly smaller, the quality less, the paper is thin, and the ink/coloring is not as vibrant. It's all together cheaper in every way. But if you've never handled the other book, you won't know the difference. I ordered this book with the D'Aulaires' Greek Myths from Doubleday, and the quality difference between them is shocking.

That book I cannot recommend highly enough. Most annoyingly, because of the size difference, they don't look good next to each other on the shelf. You can track down the original edition of Norse Gods and Giants but good luck finding an excellent condition copy that isn't a car payment. That said, this is a great deal.

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