

No Gift for Man
A Greek Myth Retold by
Carolee Dean
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This PDF is intended as a preview. The illustrated version of *No Gift for Man* will be available in October of 2022. Watch the website for details at www.wordtravelpress.com.

About the Author

Carolee Dean, M.S., CCC-SLP, CALT is a speech-language pathologist and a Certified Academic Language Therapist specializing in the treatment of dyslexia. She is also the author of award-winning fiction for young adults and the educational resource: *Story Frames for Teaching Literacy: Enhancing Student Learning Through the Power of Storytelling*, Brookes Publishing, 2021). She combined her love of children's literature with her passion for helping struggling readers to create the HOT ROD series to promote **H**igher **O**rders **R**eaders **O**pen **D**ecodable **R**eaders through the **R**eadings of **D**ecodables.

Her YA fiction titles include:

Comfort (Houghton Mifflin)

Take Me There (Simon Pulse)

Forget Me Not (Simon Pulse)

NOTE

Pair and Share Reading is a strategy that *pairs* developing readers with proficient readers (educators, parents, or peers) who *share* the literacy experience by reading the paragraphs aloud. The developing reader then reads the poem which was written to align with Set 1 of the HOT ROD Scope and Sequence. Set 1 targets closed syllables CVC, CCVC, CVCC, CCCVC, etc., and words that incorporate the floss rule (ff, ll, ss). Multi-syllable words have been split into syllables since students may not have learned syllable division yet. For more information about the scope and sequence of the series, visit <https://wordtravelpress.com/scope-and-sequence/>.

The entire book may be read independently by students with third-grade or higher reading skills. The questions at the end of the book encourage higher-order thinking skills. Go to www.wordtravelpress.com for additional information and supplementary resources for this book.

Prerequisite Skills - Concepts that have previously been taught to the student.

Targets: Single consonants including **s** as /s/ and /z/

words containing the floss rule (final ff, ll, ss)

initial/final blends

CVC closed syllables (containing closed/short vowel sounds)

Schwa - ə in the words: **a**, **the**, and in the second syllable of two- syllable words

Suffix **-s** as /s/ and /z/

Learned Words - These words need to be taught for two different reasons:

1. They contain irregular spellings and can't be decoded.
2. Although they are regular, their structure has not yet been introduced.

Irregular Words: *do, one, to*

Not yet introduced: *for, shell*

Limited word list of open (long) vowels: *he, no*

Names and Places

Epimetheus (ɛp-ə-MĒ-thē-əs) - One of the Titans. Brother to Prometheus.

Olympus (ō-LĪM-pəs) – Home of the Greek gods.

Olympians (ō-LĪM-pē-ənz) – The gods who lived on Olympus.

Prometheus (prō-MĒ-thē-əs) – One of the Titans. Brother to Epimetheus

Titans (TĪ-tənz) – The gods who came before Zeus and his brothers and sisters.

Zeus (zūs) – The king of the Greek gods.

The story begins on the next page.

No Gift for Man

By Carolee Dean

Life was a bit dull on Earth after the Olympians won their war with the Titans. One day, Zeus called Prometheus and his brother Epimetheus up to Mount Olympus. The brothers were Titans. They had not fought in the war against Zeus, so they were still on his good side.

“Now that the war is over, I’m bored,” Zeus told them. “It’s too quiet around here. Go back down to Earth and fill it with living creatures.”

“As you wish,” said Prometheus.

Prometheus’s name meant *forethought*. He gave a lot of thought to the creation of man. He wanted to make something that would look and talk and think like the gods. Epimetheus’s name meant *afterthought*. While Prometheus took his time creating man, Epimetheus made the animals without thinking much about them. Some of them ended up looking quite strange. Have you ever taken a close look at a banana slug, a star-nosed mole, or a three-toed sloth?

But Epimetheus couldn’t go back and uncreate what he had created. Instead, he gave the animals some very interesting presents to make up for his lack of planning. They received gifts like claws, fur, wings, night vision, and the ability to shed their skin. Some could even lose body parts and grow them back, which was very interesting for their friends to watch.

Unfortunately, by the time Prometheus was done creating man, his foolish brother had given away all the good presents. There was no gift left for man...

A gift for the dog.
A gift for the cat.

A gift for the hog.
A gift for the rat.

The frog got a hop.
The bass got a fin.

The bat can drop.
The drill can grin.

The fox can hunt.

The pug can smell.

The pig got a grunt.
The crab got a shell.

Kes-trel fal-con,
Bob-cat, rab-bit.

The asp got ven-om,
Do not grab it!

Sis-kin, bas-set,
Jac-kal, lin-net.

One got silk and
legs to spin it.

Skill to flip,
and flop, and trot—

Did man get a gift?
No! He did not.

HOT Questions

1. The word *drill* is used in an unusual way. That is because the word can have multiple meanings. Use the context to help you figure out what the word could mean in this poem.
2. Find the name from the poem of an animal you have never heard of before. Research it. Then write a description of that animal.
3. Create a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast this creation story from Greek mythology with a creation story from a different culture.

Watch for additional books from the HOT ROD series coming soon.

Set 1, Book 2: *The Bandit* - Prometheus steals fire from Mount Olympus to give to the humans and suffers the wrath of Zeus.

Set 1, Book 3: *The Box* – Zeus gets revenge on the humans for accepting the gift of fire by creating Pandora, giving her to Epimetheus as a wife, and gifting them with a box they are told to never open.

Set 2, Book 1: *Hank the Tank* – A fun tale based on the exploits of a real bear in Lake Tahoe who broke into houses to steal food before he was eventually captured.