

The first four volumes in an attractive new series of picture books strike exactly the right note for children aged four and over. Balancing fable and humor, Filippos Mandilaras retells the old stories in rhyme, while Natalia Kapatsoulia illustrates them with a child's eye in mind. The heroes look like youngsters and their adventures are observed by animal onlookers. Rotund, pop-eyed frogs witness the encounter between Jason and Hera, the goddess disguised as an old woman, whom the hero helps across a river in spite. The moon smiles benignly over the Argonauts' idyll with the women of Lemnos. A kitten plays with the thread Ariadne gives Theseus to help him escape the labyrinth. The wild horses that Heracles has subdued acquire haloes without losing their cheeky look. Games, activities and maps encourage children to remember and learn more about Jason and the Argonauts, Theseus, Heracles, and Paris and Helen.