

Myth: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

By Robert A. Segal

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Where do myths come from? What is their function and what do they mean?

In this *Very Short Introduction* Robert Segal introduces the array of approaches used to understand the study of myth. These approaches hail from disciplines as varied as anthropology, sociology, psychology, literary criticism, philosophy, science, and religious studies. Including ideas from theorists as varied as Sigmund Freud, Claude Levi-Strauss, Albert Camus, and Roland Barthes, Segal uses the famous ancient myth of Adonis to analyse their individual approaches and theories.

In this new edition, he not only considers the future study of myth, but also considers the interactions of myth theory with cognitive science, the implications of the myth of Gaia, and the differences between story-telling and myth.

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Myth: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) By Robert A. Segal Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #316985 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2015-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 4.40" h x .40" w x 6.70" l, .28 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 176 pages

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Editorial Review

Review
this admirably clear and sensibly priced volume, although 'very short', is also very comprehensive Juliette Wood, Folklore Science Fiction readers, and more so writers, may well find this short introduction to myth of interest. SF has drawn on mythological tropes from supermen (including Superman) and technology with, and imparting, god-like powers, through to flights to the heavens. Concatenation, Jonathan Cowie this is an essential addition to your library. It is an inexpensive book that maps out the territory of the theories of myth - covering a lot of academuc ground while being very readable and accessible. International Journal of Jungian Studies

About the Author

Robert A. Segal was born, raised, and educated in the United States. He received his PhD in religion from Princeton University. He taught in the US for many years at Reed College, Stanford University, the University of Pittsburgh, and Tulane University before relocating to the UK in fall 1994. He taught at Lancaster University, before moving in 2006 to the University of Aberdeen, where he is Sixth Century Chair in Religious Studies. He teaches and writes on theories of myth and on theories of religion. Among the books he has written or edited are *Joseph Campbell* (1987, 1990) *The Gnostic Jung* (1992), *Jung on Mythology* (1998), *The Myth and Ritual Theory* (1998), *Theorizing about Myth* (1999), *The Blackwell Companion to the Study of Religion* (2006), and *30-Second Mythology* (2012). He is currently editing the Oxford Handbook of Myth Theory.

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