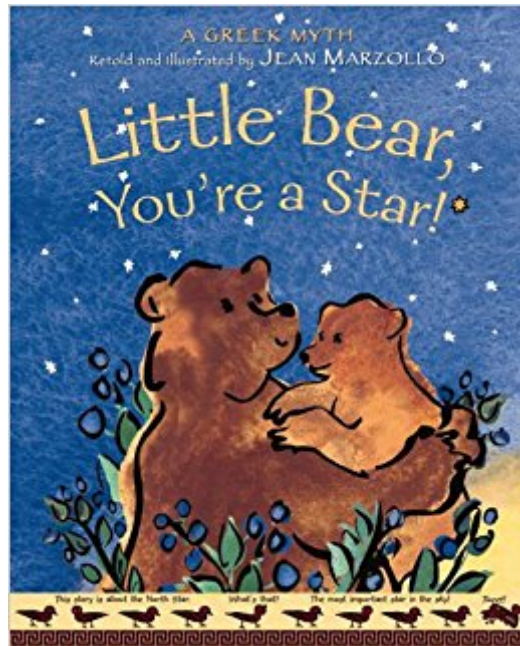




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Little Bear, You're A Star!: A Greek Myth About The Constellations



Synopsis

This lively, vibrantly illustrated rendition of the story of Big and Little Bear provides a wonderful introduction to classic Greek myths and the constellations. Jean Marzollo, beloved author and expert in early childhood education, vividly retells this dramatic and heartwarming tale about the enduring bond between mother and child. Small bird characters at the bottom of each page offer thought-provoking commentary.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Young Readers (September 7, 2005)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #262,255 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Children's Books](#)
> [Religions > Christianity > Bible > Picture](#) #231 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Greek & Roman](#) #269 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Bible > Stories](#)

Age Range: 1 - 10 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 5

Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 2 *—An engaging retelling of the Greek myth of Callisto and Arcas, who became the constellations Ursa Major and Minor. In one of his many wanderings, Zeus meets the beautiful nymph Callisto and fathers Arcas. Hera, in her jealousy, turns Callisto into a bear that still manages to watch over her son as he grows. Zeus then tosses the pair into the sky so that they will always be together. Even before the title page, Marzollo confronts the issue of authorship, giving the names for bear in Greek (arktos) and Latin (ursa) and noting that she is another in a series of retellers. A running frieze, or Greek chorus, appears at the bottom of the pages. It is illustrated in the style of Greek vase painting and offers chatty commentary on what is taking place in the text, sometimes offering an explanation. This clever feature allows the main story to remain on course while introducing elements of Greek art and drama. The bright watercolor-and-ink illustrations are*

fluid and appealing. Marzollo also includes a drawing of the constellations of Ursa Major and Minor and describes the North Star and how to find it. A welcome addition to most libraries.~œRobin L. Gibson, formerly at Perry County District Library, New Lexington, OH
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Jean Marzollo is the author of over one hundred books, including the best-selling, award-winning I SPY books (with photographs by Walter Wick).

THIS BOOK IS AMAZING WAS EXACTLY WHAT I LOOKING FOR IS GREAT HISTORY MY CHILD LOVED SO MUCH THANKS FOR SHIPPING SO FAST/ UN LIBRO MARAVILLOS ERA LO QUE BUSCABA EXACTAMENTE ES UNA GRAN HISTORIA MI HIJA LE ENGANTO MUCHO. GRACIAS/THANKS.

A good simplified version of the story of Ursa Major and Ursa Minor. I use this when teaching the north circumpolar star constellations to elementary students. They love the stories that go with the "science" of life.

A Must-Read for Young People. This is an age-appropriate, fresh-faced rendering of a popular Greek myth about Polaris, Ursa Major, and Ursa Minor. The author / illustrator has done an excellent job weaving mythology, astronomy, zoology, vocabulary, history, culture, geography, dialogue, drama, art, and humor into one engaging, interactive tale. Best features of the book: The running commentary of the little birds in the bars across the page bottoms (very clever!) The interactive invitation to study and to find constellations among stars (this can lead to real night-sky, star gazing, and later, discussions on light pollution if it affects viewing areas) Illustrations of the bears--warm, colorful, expressive Universal themes of love, relationships, compassion Parent / Teacher Guide The book can grow with child readers--as the child learns to read and learns to explore science concepts to compare with the mythology. Homeschooling parents and guardians should find this book a worthy, interdisciplinary product that promotes observation, critical thinking, and questioning.

You probably would not be able to tell just from the cover art, but "Little Bear, You're a Star" is a Greek myth retold and illustrated by Jean Marzollo (yes, the declaration this is "A Greek Myth" gives it away, but I am talking just about the picture of the Big Bear and the Little Bear and ignoring the

Greek border design on the bottom). This story is about the North Star and why it is the most important star in the night sky. It also involves the Greek myth of Callisto and Arcas, the original of which Marzollo is longer and more complicated than what Marzollo has simplified for young children. However, down the road students will be able to find other, more detailed versions of the same myth. Meanwhile, they will find out that the title of this book does not mean what they think it means. The little birds that are talking on the bottom of the cover continue to talk throughout the book, which begins with a picture of the night sky and has the birds telling you to come back and look after the story to see if you can spot the constellations that make the pictures the ancient Greeks saw in the stars. Think of the birds as a sort of caustic Greek chorus. The story is about how Zeus visited a beautiful woman named Callisto who had a baby named Arcas. Hera, the jealous wife of Zeus, changes Callisto into bear so that Zeus will not want to visit her any more. As Callisto learned how to be a bear, she kept an eye on her son, who grows up and learns to shoot with a bow and arrow. Then one day, Arcas is about to shoot his first bear, not knowing that it is his mother. The constellation part of the story comes at the end when Zeus creates Ursa Major (Big Bear) and Ursa Minor (Little Bear), known by us today as the Big Dipper and Little Dipper. But once you understand that the tails of the bears become the handles of the dippers, you should be able to see both. The idea is that the last thing Zeus touched last was the tail of the Little Bear, which is the North Star (also known as Polestar and Polaris). A Parent/Teacher Guide on the last back of the book explains when young children can understand the abstract concept of north and how the Greek word for bear, "Arktos," gives us the words "Arctic" and "arctophile" (you should know the former, but the latter is what you call somebody who collect teddy bears, which is probably more relevant to young readers).

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