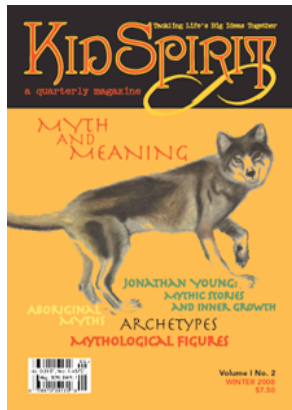


# KID SPIRIT

## Group Guides



### Myth & Meaning

*Vol 1, No. 2*

Myths are part of the way we understand the world, and contain many layers of meaning beneath the fun and exciting stories they tell. Here are a number of possible discussion topics which connect myth to our everyday lives.

1. Jonathan Young shows us how mythical stories contain characters and situations that are like us and our own world. What stories are you drawn to? What do you think that says about yourself? What kind of hero would you create if you were writing your own myth, and what kinds of obstacles would he or she face? What do you think this means about the kinds of obstacles you face in your life?
2. Writers in this issue talked about four different mythical figures. Where else have you seen people or personalities like Merlin, Odysseus, Loki, and Quetzalcoatl? Do you find them in books? In movies? What about in the news or among your friends and family? Do people that you interact with on a daily basis seem to fit the molds of mythical "archetypes" just like the characters in stories?
3. Rebecca Brudner writes about a trip she took to Australia, and her encounter with Aboriginal mythology. She talks about a mountainous rock called "Ayer's Rock," which the native people valued, but which seemed to her a strange place to be considered "sacred." However, Rebecca says that when she saw the sun rise over the rock, she couldn't help but be filled with wonder and awe. Have you ever had an experience in which something seemingly ordinary (like a rock!) held a lot of value to somebody else? Maybe that object also fit into a story or series of stories that you didn't know but were very important to another person—possibly even an object or story passed on to you by your parents or grandparents. Did you ultimately recognize some value in that strange thing, or not? If so, did you find it valuable because of the way that the other person viewed it, or because of something you could see in it yourself, or both?
4. Write your own myth! Use one (or a few) of the characters you have met in this issue, or make up your own characters. Be creative: You can set your myth in any time period (in medieval castles, in prehistoric caves, or even at the shopping mall), and you can involve anyone and any event you can imagine. Remember that stories are our way of helping us to understand the world around us; your story can be anything from a creation myth (which helps explain how the world may have begun), or a myth about strength and courage, or even a warning myth that would keep us from doing things that might be harmful.

To order a copy of Myth & Meaning, to read more work by teens, and to download any of KidSpirit's group guides, go to [www.kidspiritonline.com](http://www.kidspiritonline.com). Parents and youth leaders with more questions about how to get their teens involved in writing for KidSpirit Magazine can send an e-mail to [info@kidspiritonline.com](mailto:info@kidspiritonline.com).