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Myth and Creative Writing: The Self-Renewing Song

Adrian May

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Myth and Creative Writing is a unique and practical guide to the arts of creative writing. It:

- Gives a historical perspective on the storyteller's art
- Takes a wide view of myth, to include: legends, folklore, biblical myth, classical myth, belief myths, balladry and song.
- Considers all aspects of the creative process, from conception to completion
- Provides tips on seeking inspiration from classical and mythic sources
- Shows how myths can be linked to contemporary concerns
- Enables beginning writers to tap into the deeper resonances of myth
- Guides students to further critical and creative resources

A secret that all writers know is that they are part of a long tradition of storytelling - whether they call it mythic, intertextual, interactive or original. And in the pantheon of storytelling, myths (those stories that tell us, in often magical terms, how the world and the creatures in it came to be) are the bedrock, a source of unending inspiration. One can dress the study of literature in the finest critical clothing - or intellectualise it until the cows come home - but at its heart it is nothing more - and nothing less - than the study of the human instinct to tell stories, to order the world into patterns we can more readily understand. Exploring the mythic nature of writing (by considering where the connections between instinct and art are made, and where the writer is also seen as a mythic adventurer) is a way of finding close links to what it is we demand from literature, which is - again - something to do with the essences of human nature. Further, in the course of examining the nature of myth, Adrian May provides a very practical guide to the aspiring writer - whether in a formal course or working alone - on how to write stories (myths) of their own, from how to begin, how to develop and how to close.

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