



HERA – READING GROUP GUIDE

About the Book:

Hera: the Goddess and Her Glory is the third book in *Olympians*, a new graphic novel series from First Second that retells the Greek myths. It recounts the story of Hera, from her marriage to Zeus and ascendance as the Queen of the Gods, to her patronage of many of the heroes of Ancient Greek.

For Discussion:

Hera is the goddess of marriage, yet her own marriage to Zeus is full of fights. Who do you think is to blame for that, Zeus or Hera? (Watch out for lightning bolts and giant snakes when answering this question.)

When Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster created Superman in the 1930's, they consciously modeled him on Heracles. What are some aspects that Superman and Heracles have in common?

Heracles and Jason are two of the greatest heroes of Ancient Greece, and are both closely connected to Hera. But their respective relationships with her are quite different. Why do you think that is?

Many of the names in this book will be very familiar to modern readers, like Atlas and Heracles. What are some modern things that have names taken from Greek mythology?

Do you think it's fair that Hera punishes the children and girlfriends of Zeus? Is it fair that Zeus keeps cheating on Hera?

The number twelve comes up often in the Greek myths. Heracles performs twelve labors; there are twelve Olympians, and twelve Titans before them. Why is the number twelve so important? What other numbers come up a lot in the Greek myths?

Heracles is given a choice between a hard life, in which he would have to work for everything but would be remembered forever, and an easy life, in which where everything would be given to him. Did he make the right choice? What would you choose?

Very few people believe in the Greek gods today. Why do you think it is important that we still learn about them?