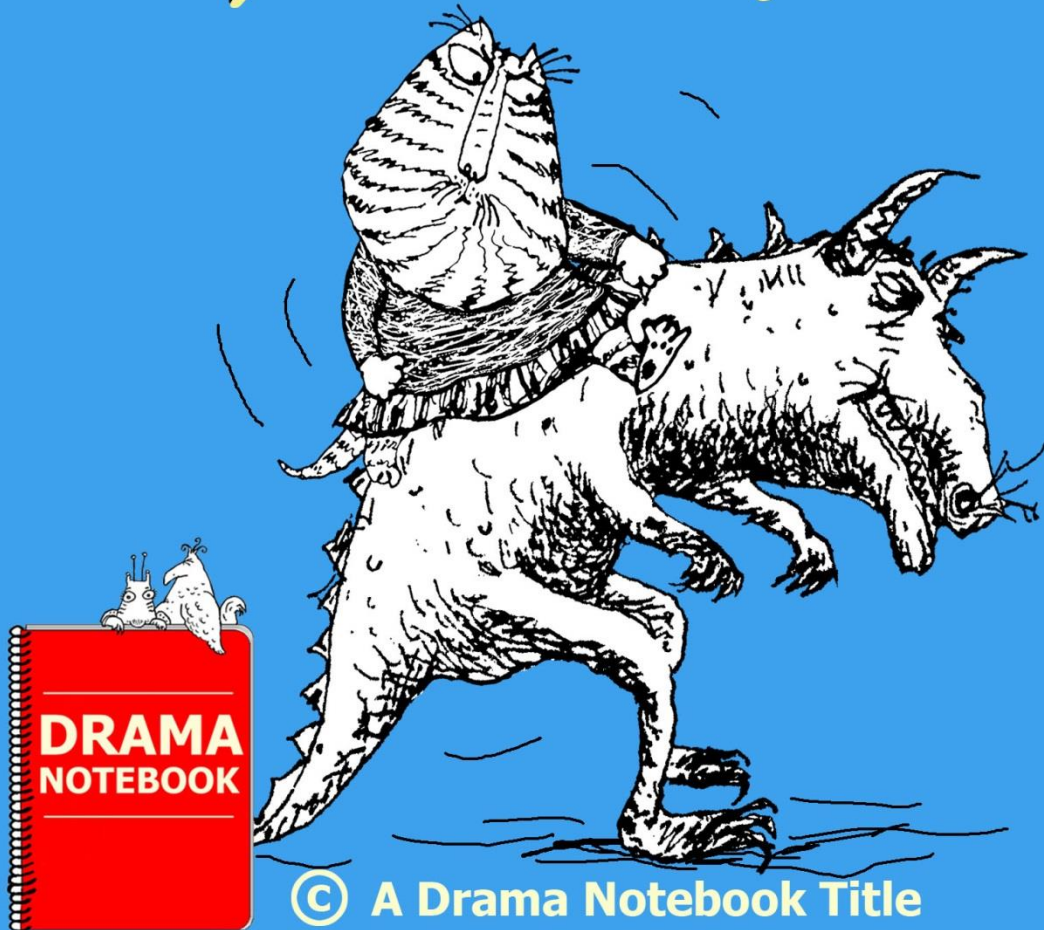


# HERCULES AND THE 12 TASKS

By Jasmine Rodgers



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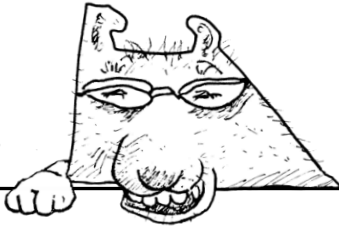
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## About the Author...

**Jasmine Rodgers** is a full-time performing arts teacher for Berkeley International, an international school in Bangkok, Thailand, where she is an active choreographer and director for both primary and secondary school musicals. She holds a BS in Early Childhood Rehabilitation/Special Education and a MA in Education with a focus on the performing arts with English language learners. This will be her 9th year teaching dance and drama full-time. Jasmine enjoys creating theatrical scripts that her students can easily understand and enjoy performing!



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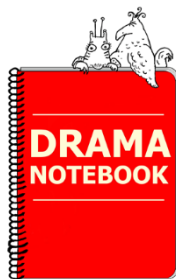
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## About the play...

**Hercules and the 12 Tasks** is Greek play that tells the myth of Hercules and his attempt to gain immortality. The goddess Hera and King Eury are jealous of Hercules' power and make him an offer he can't refuse. He must complete twelve deadly tasks in exchange for his immortality. The diabolical pair has purposely made the tasks impossible to ensure that Hercules never survives them! Hercules will have to battle lions, ferocious birds, boars and even a nine-headed monster to become a god and live on Mount Olympus with his father Zeus.

In performance, each task is told in two different ways simultaneously. The story is told out loud by a Greek chorus and acted out by performers in masks who do not speak (pantomime). Actors can easily switch masks and characters and play many different roles throughout the play.



# Hercules and the 12 Tasks

Adapted by Jasmine Rodgers

## CHARACTERS *(with masks needed)*

**HERCULES**

**ZEUS**

**HERA**

**KING EURY**

**LION**

**HUNTERS** *(masks not required)*

**HYDRA** *(9 headed snake monster- 9 masks)*

**DANGEROUS BOAR**

**STAG OF ARTEMIS** *(golden antlers)*

**STYMPHALIAN BIRDS** *(3 masks)*

**CATTLE** *(4 masks)*

**CRETAN BULL**

**AMAZON QUEEN**

**AMAZON WARRIORS** *(masks not required)*

**GERYON** *(3 headed monster)*

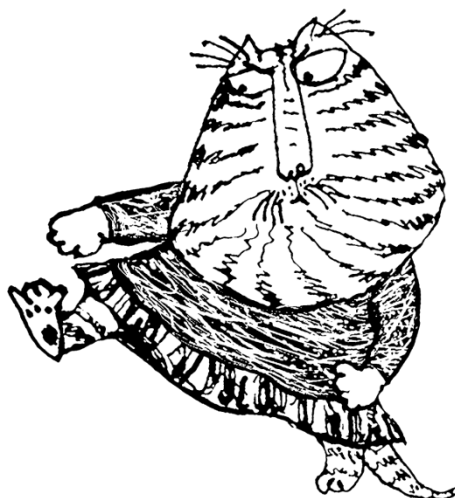
**KING DIOMEDES**

**HORSES** *(3 masks)*

**ATLAS**

**HADES**

**CERBERUS** *(3 headed dog-3 masks)*



# Hercules and the 12 Tasks

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## INTRODUCTION

*Pantomime characters on stage: Hercules, Zeus, Hera, King Eury*

### **NARRATOR 1**

Hercules was half man and half god. His mother was a human. But his father, Zeus, was the king of all the gods.

### **NARRATOR 2**

Hercules had a very special gift. He had super strength just like his father Zeus!

### **NARRATOR 3**

Because Hercules was only half God he could not live in Mount Olympus with his father. He had to live on earth. He wanted to live on Mount Olympus so badly!

### **NARRATOR 4**

The goddess Hera and King Eury were both very jealous of Hercules. They were very sneaky and wanted to trick Hercules into dying.

### **NARRATOR 5**

They made a deal with Hercules; if he did 12 dangerous tasks then he could become a true God and live in Mount Olympus with his father!

## TASK 1

*Pantomime characters on stage: Hercules, Hunters, Lion, King*

### **NARRATOR A**

The first task for Hercules was to kill a dangerous Lion. This lion was huge and very smart. Everyone was so scared of it!

### **NARRATOR B**

Many hunters tried to kill the beast but they couldn't win. The Lion was too strong and could not be stopped.

### **NARRATOR C**

The lion was strong but Hercules was stronger. Hercules tricked the beast into a trap with some meat. Then he used his muscles to defeat the beast.

### **NARRATOR D**

Everyone was so happy that the lion was defeated. Hercules carried the lion back to the king. When the king saw the lion coming, he went screaming into his castle.

## **TASK 2**

*Pantomime characters on stage: Hercules, Hydra*

### **NARRATOR 1**

Hercules' second task was to get rid of the Hydra. The Hydra was a giant snake with nine heads. He lived in a swamp.

### **NARRATOR 2**

Hercules tricked the monster out of the swamp and began the fight.

### **NARRATOR 3**

He cut the monster's heads off with his sword. But then something happened! For every head that was cut off, two more grew back!

### **NARRATOR 4**

Hercules had to use fire to keep the monster's heads from growing back. He finally defeated the giant snake and went back to the king.

## **TASK 3**

*Pantomime characters on stage: Hercules, Micha, Boar, King*

### **NARRATOR A**

The third task for Hercules was to bring a dangerous wild boar to the castle alive.

### **NARRATOR B**

Boars are wild pigs with sharp tusks. They are smart and mean. This wild boar was an enormous boar, which made him even more dangerous.

### **NARRATOR C**

Hercules chased the big boar around a mountain for a whole week until the boar was so exhausted he fell over. Hercules wasn't even tired.

### **NARRATOR D**

Hercules carried the boar home and gave it to the king. When the boar woke up the king was so scared that he screamed and ran away.

## **TASK 4**

*Pantomime characters on stage: Hercules, Stag, Artemis*

### **NARRATOR 1**

The 4th task was to catch the stag of Artemis. There were many stags in the mountains but this one was special. It had gold antlers and was very fast.

**NARRATOR 2**

Hercules tried to catch the stag for a whole year but the stag was too fast for him to catch. Finally, Hercules jumped on the stag and caught it.

**NARRATOR 3**

He tied the stag carefully to a tree but the goddess Artemis came to set the stag free.

**NARRATOR 4**

Artemis was very upset with the king for making Hercules catch her favorite stag. She yelled at him and scared him. You don't want to make a goddess mad!

**TASK 5**

*Pantomime characters on stage: Hercules, Birds*

**NARRATOR A**

The fifth task was to kill the Stymphalian birds. These birds were very scary. They had pointed beaks and claws and their feathers were knives.

**NARRATOR B**

The birds would fly high and then attack people. They loved to drop their sharp feathers on people. Nobody felt safe around these naughty birds.

**NARRATOR C**

Hercules made a shield to protect his body from the feathers. He used poisoned arrows to shoot all the birds.

**NARRATOR D**

When the last bird fell, the people came outside to thank Hercules. He made many new friends that day.

**TASK 6**

*Pantomime characters on stage: Hercules, Stable, Cows*

**NARRATOR 1**

The sixth task was to clean the royal stables in one day. Hundreds of cows slept in the royal stables. That's a lot of animal poop!

**NARRATOR 2**

Hercules used his strength to push a river so it changed its direction and went through the stables to clean them. He was done in a few hours.

**NARRATOR 3**

Hercules put the river back when he was done. But he left one small stream running through the stables so the animals could have fresh water to drink.

**NARRATOR 4**

When the animals came home to the stables, they found clean beds and fresh running water. They were very happy!

**TASK 7**

*Pantomime characters on stage: Hercules, Bull*

**NARRATOR A**

The seventh task was to catch the Cretan bull. This was a beautiful bull that lived on the Island of Crete. It was very big with silver horns and snow white skin.

**NARRATOR B**

The bull was lots of trouble! At night, it would cause chaos all over the island but during the day it would hide.

**NARRATOR C**

When Hercules finally found the bull, it was hiding in the forest. The bull tried to attack Hercules. But Hercules grabbed the bull by its horns and threw it to the ground.

**NARRATOR D**

While the bull was dizzy, Hercules tied him up with a rope. Hercules carried the bull back to King.

**TASK 8**

*Pantomime characters on stage: Hercules, Amazon Queen, Amazons*

**NARRATOR 1**

For his eighth task, Hercules had to steal the golden belt of the Amazon queen. The Amazons were strong women warriors.

**NARRATOR 2**

Hercules thought this would be a very hard task. However, the Queen thought Hercules would be a good friend in times of war so she gave him the belt!

**NARRATOR 3**

When Hercules reached for the belt the Amazon women thought Hercules was trying to hurt their queen. They attacked Hercules and a big fight began.

**NARRATOR 4**

During the fight, Hercules was able to get the golden belt and escape.



## **TASK 9**

*Pantomime characters on stage: Hercules, Geryon, Cows*

### **NARRATOR A**

The ninth task was to catch all of Geryon's cows. Geryon was a three-headed monster! He was very strong and very grumpy.

### **NARRATOR B**

Geryon owned many cows and he kept his cows on an island. Hercules bought a boat and sailed to the island.

### **NARRATOR C**

Hercules had to fight the Geryon. They fought for many days. Finally, the Geryon was so tired from fighting that he fell asleep.

### **NARRATOR D**

Hercules put the cows on the boat and sailed them back to the king.

## **TASK 10**

*Pantomime characters on stage: Hercules, Horses, King*

### **NARRATOR 1**

The tenth task was to capture the man-eating horses of King Diomedes. These poor horses were treated very badly by the King and were not happy creatures.

### **NARRATOR 2**

When Hercules found the horses, they were gentle. The horses followed Hercules to the ship; they wanted to go with Hercules because he was nice to them.

### **NARRATOR 3**

King Diomedes saw that Hercules was stealing his horses so he attacked Hercules.

### **NARRATOR 4**

The horses were so mad at the King for trying to hurt Hercules that they attacked and ate him. After Hercules captured the horses, he set them free in the wild where they were very happy.

## **TASK 11**

*Pantomime characters on stage: Hercules, Atlas*

### **NARRATOR A**

The eleventh task was to find magic, golden apples and bring them back to the King. The apples were in a garden with the god Atlas, who held the earth on his shoulders.

**NARRATOR B**

It took Hercules a very long time to find the garden and Atlas. When he arrived he asked Atlas for the golden apples. Atlas asked Hercules to hold the world while he got them.

**NARRATOR C**

Once Atlas had the apples he told Hercules he would bring the apples to the King himself and Hercules could continue to hold the world on his shoulder forever.

**NARRATOR D**

Hercules knew that Atlas was trying to trick him so he agreed to hold the world forever. He asked Atlas to hold the world for just a minute while he stretched. When Atlas had the world again, Hercules took the apples and ran away.

**TASK 12**

*Pantomime characters on stage: Cerberus, Hercules, Hades, King:*

**NARRATOR 1**

The twelfth and final task for Hercules was to go into the underworld and bring back Hades' pet, a fierce, three-headed dog named Cerberus.

**NARRATOR 2**

Hercules knew how much Hades loved that angry dog. Hercules asked Hades' to borrow Cerberus. Hades agreed as long as Hercules did not hurt poor Cerberus.

**NARRATOR 3**

Hercules, using only his hands, gave the dog a big hug till the dog fell asleep. He carefully carried the dog back to the king.

**NARRATOR 4**

The dog began to wake up and scared the King! Hercules needed to get the dog home right away and promised to be right back so he could be given immortality.

**CLOSING SCENE**

*Pantomime characters on stage: Hercules, Zeus*

**NARRATOR A**

Hercules had completed all 12 tasks!

*Everyone cheers.*

**NARRATOR B**

He excitedly returned to the palace, ready to become a god!

**NARRATOR C**

Once he got there, he could not find Hera or King Eury anywhere. They had run away and not kept their promise.

**NARRATOR D**

Hercules told Zeus what had happened. It was Zeus who gave Hercules immortality. Zeus welcomed his son Hercules up to the heavens to live as a god forever!

~CURTAIN~



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