

Juggler in the Wind

by Wim Coleman and Pat Perrin

Teachers Guide to Mythological Characters

Each Circus Olympus performer was once a member of the Greek pantheon of gods and goddesses. Those listed here are introduced in *Juggler in the Wind*. Although students won't have enough information to identify them all from this first book, more clues and information will appear in the following two books of The Wand Bearer Trilogy.

In *Juggler in the Wind*, Randy develops a strange friendship with the lounge singer Johnny Vine—who is actually the Greek god Dionysus. In his play *The Bacchae*, the poet Euripides described Dionysus as the god “most terrible, and yet most gentle, to mankind.” This is because Dionysus is the god of destruction and creation, of death and rebirth. The Greeks saw many sides of Dionysus. In *The Bacchae*, Euripides portrayed him as sleek and slender, and at the same time a terrifying force of nature; in *The Frogs*, Aristophanes portrayed him as a fat, drunken buffoon. As Dionysus does in mythology, Johnny Vine must die a mortal death and be reborn as a god. As it happens, Randy must also die and be reborn to even get a hint of who he really is. (The next book in the series, *Star Road*, will reveal that Randy and Dionysus are actually half-brothers.) Throughout *Juggler in the Wind*, Johnny/Dionysus is linked with images and symbols often associated with the god: grapes and wine, two small horns, head wreathed with vine leaves, chanting women followers, and a powerful wand called a thyrsus. He is also a shape-shifter, and adopts three forms commonly associated with the wine god: a snake, a lion, and a bull.

The chart on the following page shows the mythological identities of other characters in *Juggler in the Wind*.



THE WAND BEARER TRILOGY
PART ONE



www.chironbooks.com

info@chironbooks.com

ChironBooks is an independent publisher presenting books for young readers by established authors.

Character	Characteristics	Greek Deity
Mr. Moloch	The marine man; has a powerful pitchfork/trident.	Poseidon
Preston Parnell	The leader of the troupe.	Zeus
Leonora Dupré	Parnell's jealous wife.	Hera
Sterling MacGower	Rides across a tightrope on a unicycle with a ball on his head; has uncanny knowledge of things going on around him.	Helios
Madeleine von Goetz	Gray eyes, wise.	Athena
Hugo Boccaccio	Fortune-teller.	Apollo
Lucinda Kane	Animal trainer.	Artemis
Professor Cretorius	Fire-breather.	Hephaestus
Salazar	Sword-swallower.	Ares
Rupert Fitzsimmons	Clown.	A former satyr and follower of the god Pan
Bart Hume	Side-show barker.	Hermes
April Evans	Bareback rider.	Aphrodite
Ruth	Head cook; a tiny woman with a dowager's hump.	Hestia
Agnes	A cook, tall, amiable woman.	Demeter
Jill	Pretty girl; gathers wildflowers; Agnes' daughter.	Persephone



**THE WAND BEARER TRILOGY
PART ONE**



www.chironbooks.com

info@chironbooks.com

ChironBooks is an independent publisher presenting books for young readers by established authors.