

**THE RIVERSIDE LITERATURE  
SERIES. A WONDER-BOOK  
FOR GIRLS AND BOYS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649070251

The Riverside Literature Series. A Wonder-Book for Girls and Boys by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE**

**THE RIVERSIDE LITERATURE  
SERIES. A WONDER-BOOK  
FOR GIRLS AND BOYS**





PERSEUS SHOWING THE GORGON'S HEAD.

*The Riverside Literature Series*

---

A WONDER-BOOK  
FOR GIRLS AND BOYS

BY

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

*WITH A MYTHOLOGICAL INDEX*



HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY

Boston : 4 Park Street : New York : 11 East Seventeenth Street

Chicago : 378-388 Wabash Avenue

*The Riverside Press, Cambridge*

F88.4914 wo -  
Educ. 836.880.472

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & Co. are the only authorized publishers of the works of LONGFELLOW, WHITTIER, LOWELL, HOLMES, ERICSSON, THOREAU, and HAWTHORNE. All editions which lack the imprint or authorization of Houghton, Mifflin & Co. are issued without the consent and contrary to the wishes of the authors or their heirs.

**Harvard University,  
Dept. of Education Library**

TRANSFERRED TO  
HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

1234

Copyright, 1851,  
BY NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE.

Copyright, 1879,  
BY ROSE HAWTHORNE LATHROP.

Copyright, 1883 and 1898,  
BY HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & CO.

*All rights reserved.*

## CONTENTS.

### A WONDER-BOOK FOR GIRLS AND BOYS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTORY NOTE . . . . .	9
PREFACE . . . . .	13
THE GORGON'S HEAD.	
TANGLEWOOD PORCH.—Introductory to "The Gorgon's Head" . . . . .	15
THE GORGON'S HEAD . . . . .	21
TANGLEWOOD PORCH.—After the Story . . . . .	49
THE GOLDEN TOUCH.	
SHADOW BROOK.—Introductory to "The Golden Touch" . . . . .	51
THE GOLDEN TOUCH . . . . .	55
SHADOW BROOK.—After the Story . . . . .	75
THE PARADISE OF CHILDREN.	
TANGLEWOOD PLAY-ROOM.—Introductory to "The Paradise of Children" . . . . .	78
THE PARADISE OF CHILDREN . . . . .	82
TANGLEWOOD PLAY-ROOM.—After the Story . . . . .	101
THE THREE GOLDEN APPLES.	
TANGLEWOOD FIRESIDE.—Introductory to "The Three Golden Apples" . . . . .	103
THE THREE GOLDEN APPLES . . . . .	109
TANGLEWOOD FIRESIDE.—After the Story . . . . .	133
THE MIRACULOUS PITCHER.	
THE HILL-SIDE.—Introductory to "The Miraculous Pitcher" . . . . .	136
THE MIRACULOUS PITCHER . . . . .	139
THE HILL-SIDE.—After the Story . . . . .	161



	PAGE
THE CHIMÆRA.	
BALD-SUMMIT. — Introductory to "The Chimæra" . . . . .	163
THE CHIMÆRA . . . . .	166
BALD-SUMMIT. — After the Story . . . . .	168
NOTES . . . . .	197
PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY . . . . .	205

## ILLUSTRATIONS.

PERSEUS SHOWING THE GORGON'S HEAD . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece</i>
THE STRANGER APPEARING TO MIDAS . . . . .	58
PANDORA OPENS THE BOX . . . . .	94
HERCULES AND THE OLD MAN OF THE SEA . . . . .	118
THE STRANGERS ENTERTAINED . . . . .	150
BELLEPHON ON PEGASUS . . . . .	180

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

---

### THE WONDER-BOOK.

EVEN from the data to be obtained by a perusal of his works, the general reader will be likely to infer that Hawthorne took a vital interest in child-life; and in his published Note-Books are found many brief memoranda which indicate his disposition to write for children. After he married and had begun to rear a family of his own, this interest of his in the earliest developments of mind and character became, naturally, much more active. He was accustomed to observe his children very closely. There are private manuscripts still extant, which present exact records of what his young son and elder daughter said or did, from hour to hour; the father seating himself in their play-room and patiently noting all that passed.

To this habit of watchful and sympathetic scrutiny we may attribute in part the remarkable felicity, the fortunate ease of adaptation to the immature understanding, and the skilful appeal to fresh imaginations, which characterize his stories for the young. Natural tact and insight prompted, faithful study from the real assisted, these productions.

While still living at Lenox, and soon after publishing "The House of the Seven Gables," he sketched as follows, in a letter to Mr. James T. Fields, May 28,

1851, his plan for the work which this note accompanies :—

“ I mean to write, within six weeks or two months next ensuing, a book of stories made up of classical myths. The subjects are : The Story of Midas, with his Golden Touch, Pandora’s Box, The Adventure of Hercules in quest of the Golden Apples, Bellerophon and the Chimæra, Baucis and Philemon, Perseus and Medusa ; these, I think, will be enough to make up a volume. As a framework, I shall have a young college-student telling these stories to his cousins and brothers and sisters, during his vacations, sometimes at the fireside, sometimes in the woods and dells. Unless I greatly mistake, these old fictions will work up admirably for the purpose ; and I shall aim at substituting a tone in some degree Gothic or romantic, or any such tone as may best please myself, instead of the classic coldness which is as repellant as the touch of marble.”

With such precision as to time did he carry out this scheme, that on the 15th of July he wrote the Preface to the completed volume. It was unusual, however, for him to work with such rapidity, or indeed to write at all in the summer season ; and this exertion, coming so soon after his work upon the romance, may have had something to do with increasing a languor which he had already begun to feel, and inducing him to remove from Lenox in the autumn. While he remained in Berkshire he had more or less literary companionship, which is alluded to in the Note-Books and also in the closing chapter of the “ Wonder-Book,” where he likewise refers thus to himself :—

“ Have we not an author for our next neighbor ? asked Primrose. ‘ That silent man, who lives in the