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The Golden Fleece and the Heroes Who Lived Before Achilles

Padraic Colum · *1921 · Colum's English*

A man in the garb of a slave went up the side of that mountain that is all covered with forest, the Mountain Pelion. He carried in his arms a little child. At full noon, in a clearing so silent it seemed empty of all life, he laid the child on the soft moss and blew three blasts upon a horn. So Padraic Colum's 1921 telling begins, Project Gutenberg #2395, complete as hosted (Pogány's illustrations are omitted). For grades 5–8. Quote Colum, not a later film.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read Colum's Golden Fleece as this 1921 telling opens it—a man in a slave's garb, the Mountain Pelion, a little child, and three blasts on a horn—rather than as a later film, or as every Greek hero-book at once?

"A man in the garb of a slave went up the side of that mountain that is all covered with forest, the Mountain Pelion. He"
The Youth Jason

Padraic Colum's The Golden Fleece and the Heroes Who Lived Before Achilles, 1921, Project Gutenberg #2395, is complete as hosted; Willy Pogány's illustrations are omitted from this file. It opens, after the contents, with The Youth Jason: A man in the garb of a slave went up the side of that mountain that is all covered with forest, the Mountain Pelion. He carried in his arms a little child. At full noon he came into a clearing so silent that it seemed empty of all life, laid the child on the soft moss, and, trembling with the fear of what might come before him, raised a horn to his lips and blew three blasts upon it. Teach that opening, for grades 5–8. The later voyage, and the other heroes named in the contents, have their own chapters. Quote Colum, not a later film. One map cannot teach every hero in the book.

KEY CHARACTERS

The man in the garb of a slave
Who climbs the Mountain Pelion carrying a little child, and blows three blasts on a horn

The little child
Laid on the soft moss in a silent clearing at noon; the later pages will name him in this telling

Padraic Colum
Whose 1921 English, complete as hosted in this file, is what the map quotes

HOW TO BEGIN THIS GOLDEN FLEECE

> *"A man in the garb of a slave went up the side of that mountain that is all covered with forest, the Mountain Pelion. He"*
> The Youth Jason

> *"He laid the child down on the soft moss, and then, trembling with the fear of what might come before him, he raised a horn to his lips and blew three blasts upon it. Then"*
> The Youth Jason

Grades 5–8

Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01
A Man in the Garb of a Slave
THE YOUTH JASON

A man in the garb of a slave went up the side of that mountain that is all covered with forest, the Mountain Pelion. The book begins with a climb, and a mountain named.

- Keep "garb of a slave" and "Mountain Pelion."
- 5–8.
- Colum, 1921.
- Not a later film.

> *"A man in the garb of a slave went up the side of that mountain that is all covered with forest, the Mountain Pelion. He"*
> The Youth Jason

02
He Carried a Little Child
THE YOUTH JASON

He carried in his arms a little child. The first errand is already a carrying, and a care.

- Keep "in his arms a little child."
- 5–8.
- The later name Jason will come in this telling.
- Quote Colum.

> *"He carried in his arms a little child."*
> The Youth Jason

03
A Clearing, Silent at Noon
THE YOUTH JASON

When it was full noon the slave came into a clearing of the forest so silent that it seemed empty of all life. The place is still, before the horn is blown.

- Keep "full noon" and "empty of all life."
- 5–8.
- Quote this English.
- The illustrations of Pogány are not in this file.

> *"When it was full noon the slave came into a clearing of the forest so silent that it seemed empty of all life. He laid"*
> The Youth Jason

04
Three Blasts upon a Horn
THE YOUTH JASON

He laid the child down on the soft moss, and then, trembling with the fear of what might come before him, he raised a horn to his lips and blew three blasts upon it. The call is made, in fear, on a still mountain.

- Keep "soft moss," "trembling," and "three blasts."
- 5–8.
- The later heroes have their own chapters.
- Quote this wording.

> *"He laid the child down on the soft moss, and then, trembling with the fear of what might come before him, he raised a horn to his lips and blew three blasts upon it. Then"*
> The Youth Jason

05
Colum, 1921, Complete as Hosted
THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #2395 is Colum's 1921 book, complete as hosted; Pogány's illustrations are omitted. For grades 5–8. Quote Colum, not a later film. The contents also name the voyage to Colchis and other heroes; one map cannot teach them all.

- Name 1921, and Colum.
- 5–8.
- A first chapter, The Youth Jason, not the whole book.
- Quote this English.

> *"A man in the garb of a slave went up the side of that mountain that is all covered with forest, the Mountain Pelion. He"*
> The Youth Jason

A mountain covered with forest | A child, carried in arms | A silent clearing at noon | Three blasts on a horn | A 1921 telling, not a later film

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 5–8

1. It opens: a man in the garb of a slave goes up the Mountain Pelion, carrying a little child. At noon, in a silent clearing, he lays the child on the moss and blows three blasts on a horn.
2. Padraic Colum, 1921, PG #2395, complete as hosted. Willy Pogány's illustrations are omitted from this file. For grades 5–8.
3. The later voyage and the other heroes have their own chapters. One map cannot teach every hero in the book.
4. Quote Colum, not a later film.

Quotations are verbatim from the Colum's English, Project Gutenberg #2395, The Golden Fleece and the Heroes Who Lived Before Achilles, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/colum-the-golden-fleece/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.