

Odd and the Frost Giants

Neil Gaiman

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Odd and the Frost Giants is a lovely short story about Odd, a young boy who loses his father and runs away from home. Odd had crippled his leg as a child when he was trying to chop down a tree, and is treated as an outcast by the people in his town because of it. So, he runs away from home and decides to spend a little time in a secluded house his father had owned before he died. However, while he's there, he runs into a fox, a bear, and an eagle which may be hiding more secrets than they seem.

Personally, I absolutely love and admire Neil Gaiman's work, and I'm also very interested in Norse Mythology. That means I might have a bit of a bias in this review, but honestly, I can't praise this highly enough. Odd – the main character – is relatable, even to me, and that's what makes the book for me. He's not a character you want to protect, even though he is just a young boy, and that's because of the way he holds himself. Also, the mythology aspect is handled so well considering this is a book for kids who probably don't even know these gods exist. You don't have to have any prior knowledge of Norse Mythology to enjoy the book, having the knowledge will only make the experience better.

The age range for this book is 8-12, and I can totally understand that. I think that age range is perfectly reasonable. The book is actually the perfect length – in my opinion – for someone that age, and definitely is written in a way that they'll understand. There's also illustrations which would definitely make the book much more enjoyable for the younger kids. Honestly, if whoever you're getting this book for enjoys fantasy books, I'd say just go ahead and buy it. It's totally worth the money, and I can't think of any reason your money wouldn't be wisely spent on it.

Recommended Titles:

How to Train your Dragon by Cressida Cowell

The Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis

The Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard series by Rick Riordan