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| Hero | Description |
| Hercules | Hercules was outwitted by his nemesis [Hera](http://ancienthistory.about.com/cs/grecoromanmyth1/g/hera.htm) from before the time he was born. After his birth she tried to destroy him by putting snakes in his crib, but he was too powerful even then. He grew up to become the hero who beat the odds time and again, performed amazing, often helpful tasks, and yet was full of human foibles, even to the point of having to expiate the horrible crime of murdering his own children (under the guidance of Hera, of course). |
| Achilles | Achilles was the Greek's best warrior in the Trojan War. His [nymph](http://ancienthistory.about.com/od/godsandgoddesses/a/Nymphs.htm) mother, [Thetis](http://ancienthistory.about.com/library/bl/bl_thetis.htm), held him by his heel when she dipped him in the [River Styx](http://ancienthistory.about.com/cs/grecoromanmyth1/g/Styx.htm). This left him vulnerable in one spot on his body. When he fought in the Trojan War he was unbeatable, until the gods guided the hand of [Paris](http://ancienthistory.about.com/cs/troyilium/g/parisoftroy.htm) to shoot an arrow into [Achilles' heel](http://ancienthistory.about.com/b/a/219621.htm). |
| Theseus | Theseus was the hero of Athens who saved the people from having to send off their sons and daughters as human sacrifices to the monstrous Cretan [minotaur](http://ancienthistory.about.com/library/bl/bl_minotaur.htm). With the help of the creature's half sister, Ariadne, Theseus was able to slay the monster and find his way out of the labyrinth. He took Ariadne with him when he left, but abandoned her to a better fate and caused his own father, the king of Athens, to commit suicide. |
| Odysseus | Odysseus was the wily hero of the Greeks who was considered by them second to Achilles. Odysseus was the one who came up with the idea of the [Trojan Horse](http://ancienthistory.about.com/od/troyilium/g/TrojanHorse.htm). He was also one of the few Greeks to reach his homeland of Ithaca, after 10 years of war and 10 years of troubles at sea. He was a descendant of Hermes, god of thieves. |
| Perseus | Perseus was the son of Danae and Zeus. For a hero, having Zeus for a father was not unusual, but Zeus impregnated his mother as a shower of gold because Danae's father had tried to prevent his daughter from just such a liaison. After a bleak childhood, Perseus was helped by the gods to obtain the deadly head of snaky-tressed [Medusa](http://ancienthistory.about.com/library/bl/bl_medusa.htm). With the help of her head he could then turn anyone he wished to stone. |
| Jason | Jason was another hero with an unfortunate childhood. To win back the throne he rightfully should have had, he was sent to capture the [golden fleece](http://ancienthistory.about.com/library/bl/bl_goldenfleece.htm). He set out with a band of the greatest heroes the world has ever known and had a series of adventures worthy of epic. Eventually, with the help of the witch Medea, he took the fleece. |