

The Myths

by Jostein Gaarder

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Norwegian: [\['jù:stæɪn 'gò:dər\]](#);

Born on 8 August 1952

Norwegian author of several [novels](#), [short stories](#), and [children's books](#).

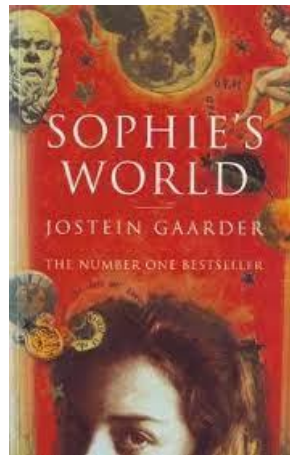
He writes from the perspective of children, exploring their sense of wonder about the world. He often utilizes [metafiction](#) in his works and constructs [stories within stories](#). His best known work is the novel [*Sophie's World*](#).

[*It is a Novel About the History of Philosophy*](#) (1991).

Sophie's World

Sophie's World is a 1991 novel by [Jostein Gaarder](#). It follows Sophie Amundsen, a Norwegian teenager, who is introduced to the [history of philosophy](#) as she is asked "Who are you?" in a letter from an unknown [philosopher](#).

Sophie's World



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- The Myth is a chapter taken from Jostein Gaarder's famous novel Sophie's World. In this novel an unknown philosopher educates Sophie through letters.
- A myth is a story which is not true and which involves supernatural beings. It is always concerned with creation. It explains how something came to exist.

- Sophie received no letter so the whole day was boring. Next time she received her father's letter from Mexico.
- Next she found expected letter. This letter explains mythological world picture.
- Philosophers make their attempts to prove that mythological explanations are not true

- Philosophy is a new way of thinking. Before philosophy came, people depended on mythological explanation about all the natural happenings.
- Before Christianity came to Norway, people believed that Thor was the source of all power of lightning, thunder, rain and farm production.

- Thor was also considered responsible for the entire world order. He was the protector of Midgard and Asgard from the forces of chaos who came from Utgard.
- In almost all cultures, people found that there was a precarious balance between the forces of good and evil.

- Freyja was the Goddess of fertility so it was necessary to protect her from the giants.
- Thor's hammer was a powerful weapon in the struggle against the dangerous forces of chaos.
- This is the mythological explanation of how the balance of nature was maintained and why there was constant struggle between good and evil.

- Some significant religious ceremonies were performed in order to increase the power of God.
- Another myth is that Thor rising from sleep finds that his hammer is gone. His investigation finds that the giants from Jotunheim have stolen his hammer. He regains it by disguising himself as a bride to Thrym, the king of giants.

- Myths are not only for entertainment but also the means of explanation and interpretation of the natural world and its order like changing seasons.