

Fiction about Ancient Mesopotamia: A bibliography of Multnomah County Library resources

- *Bower, Tamara. [How the Amazon queen fought the prince of Egypt](#). New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2005. [jE BOWER]
Serpot, ruler of a land where women live free – without men – leads her Amazon warriors in battle against Prince Pedikhons of Egypt, who has come to see for himself if women can equal men, even in battle.
- Cowley, Marjorie. [The golden bull](#). Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2008. [j COWLEY 2008]
During a severe drought in Mesopotamia in 2600 B.C., when their parents can no longer support them, Jomar and his sister Zefa are sent to the city of Ur, where Jomar is apprenticed to a goldsmith and Zefa must try to find a way to keep from becoming a slave.
- Levine, Gail Carson. [Ever](#). New York: HarperCollinsPublishers, 2008. [y LEVINE]
Kezi and Olus – the Akkan god of the winds – fall in love and together try to change her fate through a series of quests that might make her immortal. A fictionalized version of the journey of Ishtar to the underworld.
- McCaughrean, Geraldine. [The epic of Gilgamesh](#). Grand Rapids, Mich: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2003. [j398.21 M123e 2003]
A retelling, based on seventh-century B.C. Assyrian clay tablets, of the wanderings and adventures of the god king, Gilgamesh, who ruled in ancient Mesopotamia (now Iraq) in about 2700 B.C., and of his faithful companion, Enkidu.
- *Moore, C. J. [Ishtar and Tammuz: A Babylonian myth of the seasons](#). New York: Kingfisher, 1996. [j398.2 M821i]
A retelling of the Babylonian myth telling how the death of Ishtar's son Tammuz brings about the changing seasons on earth.
- Said, S. F. [Varjak Paw](#). New York: David Flicking Books, 2003. [j SAID]
Guided by the spirit of his legendary Mesopotamian ancestor, Jalal, Varjak Paw, a pure-bred cat, leaves his home and pampered existence and sets out to save his family from the evil Gentleman who took their owner, the Contessa, away.
- Wilson, Diane L. [To ride the gods' own stallion](#). New York: Dorling Kindersley Pub, 2000. [y]
After being taken as a slave to Nineveh, thirteen-year-old Soulai finds his life intertwined with that of the son of King Ashurbanipal and a magnificent stallion and gets a chance to prove to himself and others that he is not a coward.

- *Zeman, Ludmila. [Gilgamesh the king](#). Montreal, Quebec: Tundra Books, 1992. [j398.21 Z53g]
Gilgamesh, half-god and half-man, in his loneliness and isolation becomes a cruel tyrant over the citizens of Uruk. To impress them forever he orders a great wall to be built, driving his people to exhaustion and despair so that they cry to the Sun God for help. In answer, another kind of man, Enkidu, is sent to earth to live among the animals and learn kindness from them.
- *Zeman, Ludmila. [The last quest of Gilgamesh](#). Montreal, Quebec: Tundra Books, 1995. [j398.21 Z53L]
Gilgamesh, king of Uruk, makes a dangerous journey in search of the secret of immortality.
- *Zeman, Ludmila. [The revenge of Ishtar](#). Plattsburgh, N.Y: Tundra Books, 1993. [j398.21 Z53r]
In this second volume in the Gilgamesh trilogy, Enkidu joins Gilgamesh in the quest to slay Humbaba, the monster who has attacked the city and caused great destruction, including the death of the beautiful singer, Shamash. Gilgamesh and Enkidu successfully slay the monster and in so doing, Gilgamesh attracts the attention of the goddess Ishtar.

*These are longer picture books.

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