



LIBRARY
LABYRINTH

*Characters
and
Terrors*



Introduction

Library Labyrinth features historical figures and fictional characters. It also features monsters, obstacles, and generally terrible things from folklore and literature. None of these were invented by us – they all exist independently in some sense, and can all be researched at your local library or online.

If this library is anywhere in the world, it's probably in a university in the UK. We, the four creators of *Library Labyrinth*, are all British, and so the game includes a large number of characters and monsters which will be familiar to a British audience.

However, reading is about broadening your horizons and learning new information, and so we have deliberately sought stories we didn't know before. We have gathered advice from people who do know about these historical figures. We have read the books in which fictional characters feature, and have asked cultural consultants how the character is generally imagined or portrayed.

This booklet provides additional information about all of the characters and terrors featured in the game. You don't need to know any of this to play the game, but we hope you will find it interesting, and perhaps feel inspired to seek out their stories.

Thank you to all of our cultural consultants and sensitivity readers, in particular: Amy Ip, Hacchan Zoromeya, Mercy Fowler, Pearl Ho, Ana Garner, Emily Poelina-Hunter, Chalakorn Chakornwongpaisit, Peach Morris, Evie Standen, Starla and Mik Fitch. Thank you to everyone at the Mary Seacole Trust for help during the development of *Library Labyrinth*.

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Amazing Lives



Frida Kahlo

Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo y Calderón

1907-1954

Mexico

Ground-breaking artist, a feminist and LGBT+ icon. Frida developed her art style following a bus accident which left her with lifelong chronic pain. She was the first Mexican artist to be featured in the Louvre Museum in Paris. She had relationships with both men and women, and married the same man (Diego Rivera) twice.

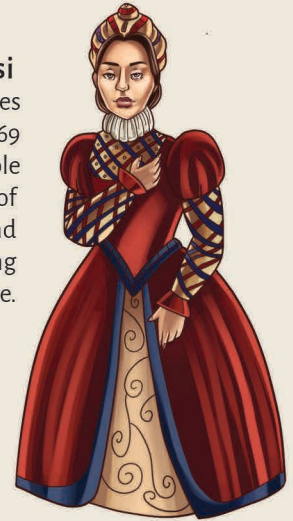
Gracia Mendes Nasi

Also known as Beatriz de Luna Miques

1510-1569

Portugal, died Constantinople

A very wealthy woman and powerbroker in Renaissance Europe. She was born into a family of conversos, or forcibly converted Jews, meaning that they practised Catholicism in public and Judaism privately. She arranged for other conversos to escape Spain and Portugal, travelling through Venice to the welcoming Ottoman Empire.



Harriet Tubman

1822-1913

Maryland, USA

An abolitionist, army scout, and civil rights activist. Harriet Tubman was born enslaved, escaped, and returned to guide other enslaved people via the Underground Railroad. During the Civil War she worked as a nurse and then as a scout. In 1863 she became the first woman to lead an armed assault during the Civil War, the Combahee River Raid in which more than 750 enslaved people escaped.

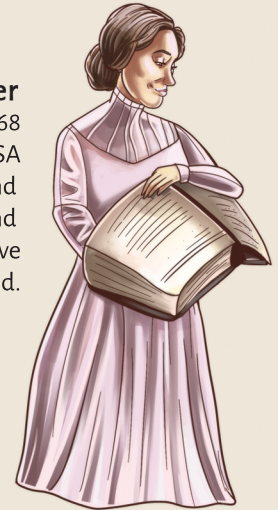
Amazing Lives

Helen Keller

1880-1968

Alabama, USA

A disability rights advocate, author, lecturer, and political campaigner. She was the first deafblind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. She worked for the American Foundation for the Blind for over 40 years. She published 12 books and many articles over her lifetime, and gave motivational speeches across the world.



Ichijo Higuchi

樋口一葉

Ichijo was a pen name: her birth name was Natsuko Higuchi

Tokyo, Japan

1872-1896

A writer of short stories and an extensive diarist. She wrote in a traditional style, and in the last few years of her life was recognised as having written significant works, especially *Ōtsugomori* (*On the Last Day of the Year*), *Nigorie* (*Troubled Waters*), and *Jūsan'ya* (*The Thirteenth Night*). She died of tuberculosis at the age of 24.



Manuela Sáenz

Manuela Sáenz de Vergara y Aizpuru

1797-1856

Quito, Viceroyalty of New Granada (now Ecuador), died in Peru

An Ecuadorean revolutionary and spy who gathered information for the revolution. She was a collaborator and lover of Simon Bolivar, the military and political leader who led the fight for independence from the Viceroyalty of Granada, and on one occasion she saved his life. She received the Caballeresa del Sol (Order of the Sun) medal for her role in the revolution, but died in exile in Peru, buried in a mass grave. In 2010 her remains were symbolically reinterred.





Noor Inayat Khan

Also known as Noor-un-Nisa, Nora Baker

1914-1944

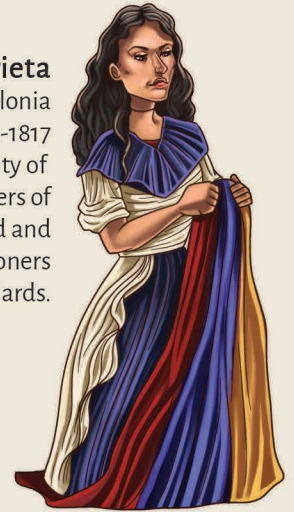
Born in Russia but moved to London at a few months old. Died in Dachau concentration camp, Germany. Noor was a British spy, with an Indian father and mother from the USA. She was the first British female wireless operator sent into France to aid the resistance during WWII, where she worked under the codename "Madeleine". In 1943 she was betrayed to the Nazi forces and after nearly a year of imprisonment she was executed. She was posthumously awarded the George Cross by the British and the Croix de Guerre (with a silver star) by the French.

Policarpa Salavarrieta

Also known as La Pola, Apolonia

1795-1817

A seamstress who spied for the resistance during the Spanish reconquest of the Viceroyalty of New Granada (present day Colombia). She worked on clothing for the wives and daughters of royalists and officers, passing intelligence to the revolutionaries. She was captured and executed by firing squad, famously turning around to face her executioners and curse the Spaniards.



Sojourner Truth

Also known as Isabella Baumfree, but chose the name Sojourner Truth for herself in 1843

1797-1883

New York, USA

An abolitionist and campaigner for women's rights. She was born enslaved, escaping with her daughter and returning to win her son's freedom in a landmark court case. She is famous for her "Ain't I A Woman" speech, delivered to the Women's Convention in 1851, in which she passionately addressed a crowd of mainly white women, questioning the treatment of Black women compared to white women.

Amazing Lives

Sophia Duleep Singh

Princess Sophia Alexandrovna Duleep Singh

1876-1948

England

A prominent British suffragette, who was also one of Queen Victoria's many godchildren. She had a leading role in the Women's Tax Resistance League, as well as other groups within the suffragette movement, and described her life's purpose as "the advancement of women".



The Public Universal Friend

1752-1819

Rhode Island, USA

The Friend was born into a Quaker community, but following a severe illness and a religious experience declined both birth name and gendered pronouns, asking instead to be called the Public Universal Friend. The Friend founded a new religious group, based on similar principles to the Quakers. In particular, the Friend's followers opposed slavery and supported unmarried women taking leading roles in their households and communities.



Truganini

Sometimes written as Trugernanner, also known as Lallah Rookh

1812-1876

Tasmania

An Aboriginal Tasmanian woman, and one of the last native speakers of Tasmanian languages, Truganini was a guide for the colonial government, advocating for her traditional lifestyle. In the early 1840s, she and four other Aboriginal Tasmanians became outlaws, shooting at the settlers. The group was captured and Truganini moved to a settlement. After her death her skeleton was displayed as a museum exhibit, finally being returned for cremation in 1976.



Children's Fiction



Alice

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll, published in 1865

England

Alice follows a white rabbit into a land of nonsense and metaphor. Together with the sequel, *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, it has become incredibly well known, with films, books, and artwork based around magically changing size, the chaos of the Mad Hatter's tea party, or the violent tendencies of the Queen of Hearts.



Bobbie

The Railway Children by Edith Nesbit, published in 1906

England

Roberta (usually referred to as Bobbie) is a clever and considerate 12 year old. Bobbie and her younger siblings Peter and Phyllis leave London with their mother after their father is falsely accused of spying. They settle in a house near the railway, where they rescue a schoolboy with a broken leg, support a Russian exile, and make friends with the railway staff.

Anne Shirley

Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery, published in 1908

Canada

Anne is an orphan who is sent to live on a farm – originally as a mistake, but comes to be loved and accepted. Anne is imaginative, eager to please, and dramatic. It's set in the fictional town of Avonlea, which is based on Prince Edward Island in Canada.



Children's Fiction

Heidi

Heidi by Johanna Spyri, published in 1880
Switzerland

Heidi is a 5 year old girl and an orphan. When her aunt is offered a job in the city, Heidi goes to live with her grandfather in the Swiss Alps. She adapts to the new environment and forms strong bonds with her grandfather. In the second half of the book Heidi visits Frankfurt as a companion to Klara, and when Klara returns to the mountains with Heidi, her health rapidly improves. Heidi is a joyful, caring child who loves both the mountains and her friends and family.



Kaguyahime

なよたけのかぐや姫,

translates to "Shining Princess of the Young Bamboo"

The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter, a Japanese folktale by an unknown author probably written in the late 800s

Japan

A moonchild appears inside a bamboo stalk and is adopted by a poor bamboo cutter. She quickly grows into a beautiful woman, who attracts suitors and sets them impossible tasks. The Emperor asks her hand in marriage, but is rejected.

Eventually she reveals that she originally came from the Moon and needs to return. The story ends with an entourage of Moon-people accompanying Kaguyahime to the full Moon, while the Emperor

and her adoptive parents weep at her departure. *The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter* is written in the monogatari style, a prose narrative popular in Japan at the time.



Lorna Doone

Lorna Doone by Richard Doddridge Blackmore, published in 1869
England

The novel starts with Lorna as a child living among a band of thieves in a hidden valley in Exmoor in south west England. As the plot thickens it's revealed that Lorna is not who she thought she was and that her necklace is the key to her identity. It is a fast-paced adventure story with a central romantic theme.



Children's Fiction



Pollyanna

Pollyanna by Eleanor H. Porter, published in 1913
USA

Pollyanna is a child who is positive and strong in the face of hardship. A central theme is finding something to be glad about, even when there is very little optimism. Numerous films have been made and sequels to the original book written. The name “Pollyanna” is now synonymous with positivity across most of the English-speaking world.

Little Red Riding Hood

A folktale common across much of Europe

Red Riding Hood meets a Big Bad Wolf on her way to visit her grandmother. Having found out where she is going, the wolf races ahead of her and disguises himself as the grandmother. When Red Riding Hood gets to the cottage she remarks on how big her grandmother's eyes, ears, and teeth are. In later versions, such as Roald Dahl's poem in *Revolting Rhymes*, she saves herself by shooting the wolf with a pistol kept in her knickers. Both the Brothers Grimm and Charles Perrault have written down versions in their collections of traditional fairy tales.



Vasilisa Vasilyevna

Vasilisa the Priest's Daughter, a Russian folktale collected by Aleksandr Afanasyev
Late 19th century
Russia

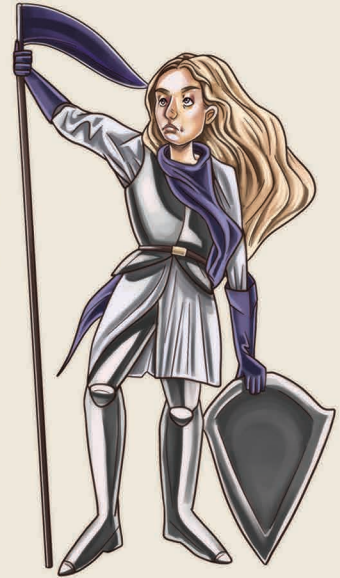
Vasilisa disguises herself as a young man and is challenged to various tasks by the King, who suspects she is female. She passes the tests, and during the last test (to use the steam baths with the King) runs away before he can discover she is a young woman. Aleksandr Afanasyev published almost 600 folktales, including this one.

Classic Fiction

Britomart

The Faerie Queen by Edmund Spenser, written 1590
England

The Faerie Queen is one of the longest poems in the English language. Written to flatter Queen Elizabeth I, it contains the character of Britomart, a female knight who is a thinly veiled allegory of the Queen herself. Britomart rescues a captured lady and wins a tournament in disguise, and embodies the virtue of Chastity.



Eponine Thenardier

Les Misérables by Victor Hugo, published 1862
France

Independent and tragic, she is one of the novel's most interesting characters. She is first introduced as a pampered child, but later her family re-enter the narrative as impoverished and begging for money. She helps Marius and Cosette (the romantic couple at the heart of the narrative) to pass letters, and dies on the barricade. She is a symbol of how a person can change from a spoiled child to a selfless adult.



Gordafarid

گردآفرید

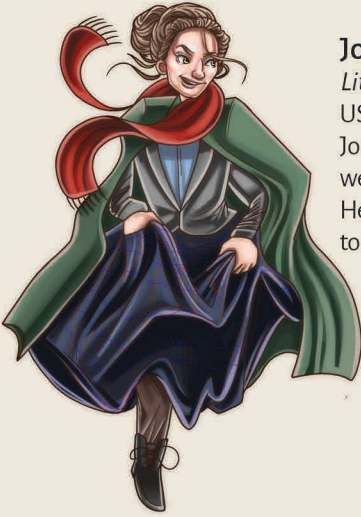
Shahnameh شاهنامه by Abul-Qâsem Ferdowsi Tusi, written around 1000
Persia

Shahnameh is one of the world's longest epic poems. It covers legends of the Persian Empire, and is of central importance to Persian culture and literature.

Gordafarid is a champion who delays invading troops marching on Persia. She is a symbol of courage and wisdom.



Classic Fiction



Jo March

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott, published 1869
USA

Jo is the second of the four March sisters, and one many readers identify with in the well-loved coming-of-age book. She is determined and clever, and is a brilliant storyteller. Her ambition through the book is to become a writer. Jo is also the character most similar to the author, and it has been considered as a semi-autobiographical novel.

Dracula is one of the most famous pieces of English literature, and Willamina Harker (nee Murray, as she marries part way through the story) is one of the central characters. She is clever, resourceful, and towards the end of the novel fights the onset of her own vampirism with more stamina and determination than any other character in the novel.

Mina Harker

Dracula by Bram Stoker, published 1897
Ireland



Scheherazade

One Thousand and One Nights, collected 700-1400
Middle East / India

Scheherazade is the narrator who frames this collection of folktales and legends. An accomplished storyteller, she volunteers to be the King's latest bride, knowing that he kills every new wife the morning after the wedding. She tells him story after story, ending on a cliffhanger each night. Her clever plan keeps her alive, as he is eager to find out what happens next in the story.



Classic Fiction

Lady of Shalott

The Lady of Shalott by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, published 1842
England

The Lady of Shalott is a poem based on the Arthurian story of Elaine of Astolat. The Lady of Shalott lives in a tower up the river from Camelot. She cannot look directly out of the window due to a curse, but instead watches events unfold in a mirror and weaves on a loom. When she sees Sir Lancelot ride past the tower she leaves her loom and mirror, looking directly out at him. The curse causes the mirror to crack, and the Lady of Shalott floats down the river in a boat, dying as she reaches Camelot.



Wang Xifeng

王熙鳳

The Dream of the Red Chamber 石頭記, by Cáo Xuěqín 曹雪芹, written 1791
China

The Dream of the Red Chamber is one of the four great classic novels of Chinese literature. It is a long book, with the last section finished by two other authors after Cáo's death. The plot focuses on a love triangle between three teenagers. Wang Xifeng is one of the older women in the household, and is both complex and cruel. Powerful and self-assured, she is capable and clever, but also the cause of another character's death.



Wanthong

วันทอง

Khun Chang Khun Phaen ขุนช้างขุนแผน, written 1872
Thailand

A Thai epic poem about a woman torn between two men. One man is poor but dashing, the other rich but ugly and boring. The poem recounts how Wanthong struggles to choose between passion and security, especially when circumstances around her keep changing. The story has been adapted into countless films and a recent television series, as well as featuring heavily in popular culture.



Historical Leaders



Amanirenas

Approximately 60-10 BCE

Kush (an area which is now part of northern Sudan)

Ruling Queen of Kush, Roman records refer to her as Candace, a fierce one-eyed warrior Queen. She successfully defeated Roman forces and took cities in the south of Egypt, before being beaten back.

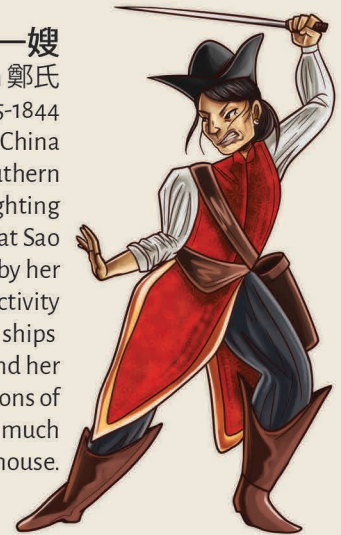
Cheng Yat Sao 鄭一嫂

Also known as Ching Shih 鄭氏

1775-1844

Guangdong, southern China

The leader of the biggest pirate fleet of all time. She was born Shih Yang (石陽) in southern China. She married a well-known pirate and began organising his fleets, ending infighting and uniting the pirates into a confederation. When her husband died in 1807, Cheng Yat Sao quickly took command of the Pirate Confederation as a whole, with the largest fleet led by her husband's heir (and her ally) Cheung Po Tsai (張保仔). Over the next few years, pirate activity increased, and at the height of her power she commanded up to 400 ships and up to 60,000 individual pirates. In 1810, Cheng Yat Sao and her pirates surrendered to the authorities in return for positions of power and comfortable retirement. Cheng Yat Sao spent much of the later part of her life running a gambling house.



Chevalier d'Eon

Charlotte-Geneviève-Louise-Augusta-Andréa-Timothéa d'Éon de Beaumont

1728-1810

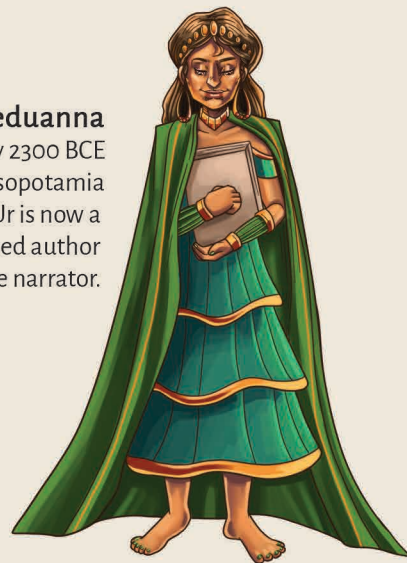
Tonnerre, France, died in England

A French diplomat, soldier, and spy. She lived the first half of her life as man, although rumours circulated (and may have been encouraged by her) that she was a woman, to the extent that a betting pool was started. She reportedly gained access to the Russian Court by dressing as a woman. From 1777 onwards, d'Eon lived as a woman, stating at one point that she had always been female. Her life remained eventful, being wounded in a fencing tournament, sent to debtors' prison, and eventually dying in poverty in London.

Historical Leaders

A priestess and poet in the Sumerian city-state of Ur. The archeological site of Ur is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site in southern Iraq. Enheduanna is the earliest named author in history. *The Exaltation of Inanna* is written in the first person with her as the narrator.

Enheduanna
Approximately 2300 BCE
Mesopotamia

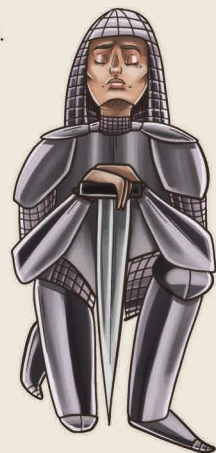


Grainne Ni Mhallie
Grace O'Malley, Gráinne Mhaol
1530-1603

Connacht, Ireland, died Rockfleet Castle in Ireland
A fearless Irish leader, and defacto head of the formidable seafaring Uí Mháille clan. She's often referred to in popular culture as a pirate Queen, which is an inaccurate representation of the power struggles between Ireland and England at the time. In 1593 she famously petitioned Elizabeth I of England to release her sons and brother, refusing to bow and conducting the conversation in Latin, as it was their only common language.

A patron saint of France, and a well-known figure across the world. As a young girl she approached Charles VII, the disinherited Dauphin, or heir to the French throne, saying that she had been sent by religious visions to help him. She led the French army against the English at the siege of Orleans and was by Charles' side when he was crowned King of France. She was captured at Compiègne and put on trial by the English, who executed her as a heretic.

Joan of Arc
Jeanne d'Arc
1412-1431



Historical Leaders



Khutulun

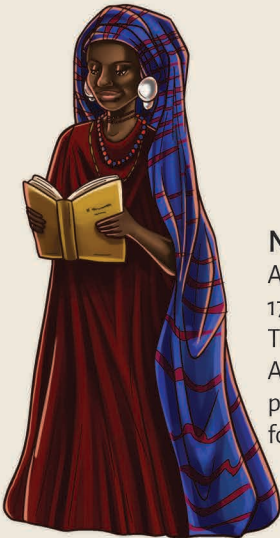
Also known as Aiyurug, Aigiarne, or Khotol
Approximately 1260-1306
Mongolia

A Mongol warrior and noblewoman. She is described by explorer Marco Polo as being a brilliant and accurate warrior. She is said to have promised her hand in marriage to anyone who could beat her in a wrestling match, but never lost.

Maria Quiteria

Maria Quiteria de Jesus
1792-1853
Brazil

The first woman to serve in a military unit in Brazil, Maria Quiteria became a Lieutenant during the Brazilian War of Independence. She fought several battles against the Portuguese and received the Order of the Southern Cross.



Nana Asma'u,

Asma'u bint Shehu Usman dan Fodiyo, نانا أسماء بنت عثمان فودي
1793-1864

The Sokoto Caliphate, in present-day Nigeria

A leading scholar, she was also a poet and teacher. More than 60 of her works survive, including poetry and historical narratives. She was committed to women's education, and was a counsellor for her brother when he led the Caliphate.

Historical Leaders

Nzinga

Mwene Njinga Mbande, also known as Anna de Souza Nzingha Ndongo and Matamba, in present-day Angola
1583-1663

Queen Nzinga lived during a time of increased activity in the trading of enslaved people, and both fought and negotiated with the Portuguese in order to keep her countries independent. A famous example of her unwillingness to back down is a negotiation in which no chair was provided for her to sit in, and her attendant formed himself into a human chair so that she would be able to speak to the Portuguese Governor as an equal.



Tirgatao

Also known as Tirgutawiya
Queen of the Sindhi, around the Black Sea.
Approximately 390 BCE

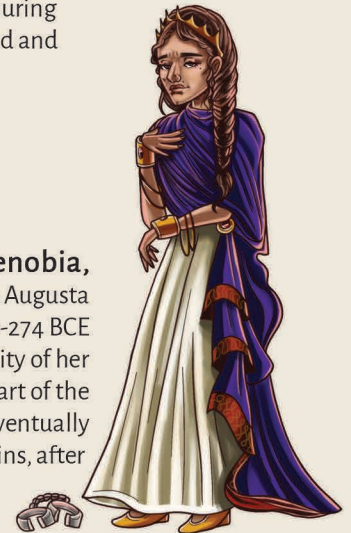
Tirgatao is recorded by Greek author Polyaeus in his *Stratagems in War* as playing a significant role in the Bosporan wars of expansion. After being replaced by her husband in favour of a more advantageous political match, she escaped imprisonment and returned to urge her own people to fight. She built an alliance of neighbouring nations and invaded both the kingdom of her former husband and the more powerful King who had ordered her to be replaced as Queen.



Zenobia,

Also known as Septimia Zenobia (Bat-Zabbai), Septimia Zenobia Augusta
Approximately 240-274 BCE

Queen of the Palmyrene Empire in Syria. She is remembered for the intellectual quality of her court, which attracted philosophers and scholars. She invaded much of the eastern part of the Roman Empire, including Egypt, and declared her son as Emperor. The Romans were eventually victorious, and Zenobia is frequently portrayed in Western artworks as being in chains, after she was besieged and captured. She was exiled to Rome and spent the last few years of her life in captivity.

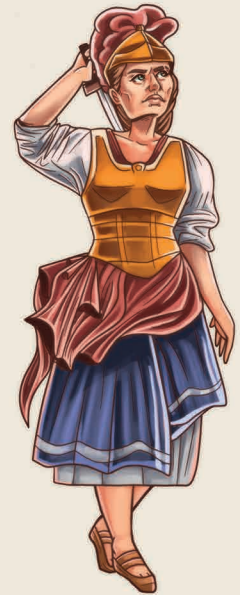




Athena

Myth
Ancient Greece

The Ancient Greek Goddess of wisdom, war, and craft. In the *Iliad*, Athena is one of the three goddesses between whom Paris must choose. In most versions of her birth story she springs fully formed from Zeus' head. She is one of the most recognisable figures in the Ancient Greek myths, and the city of Athens is named after her..



Camilla

Myth
Virgil's epic poem *The Aeneid*, written between 29 and 19 BCE
Ancient Rome

Camilla is promised as a virgin warrior to Diana, the goddess of the hunt. She is an athlete who is so fast that she can run over a field of wheat without breaking the plants, or across the sea without wetting her feet.



Ceridwen

Folktale

From the *Mabinogion* (compiled 12-13th century from earlier oral traditions, written in manuscripts dating 1350-1410, the earliest British prose stories)
Wales

An enchantress and shape-shifter, Ceridwen represents transformation and rebirth. In one story she asks a young boy to stir a cauldron of magic potion which gives wisdom. He accidentally takes the potion himself and gains the magical powers, and then runs away. The boy and Ceridwen each shapeshift into different creatures, until finally he becomes a grain of corn and she turns into a hen to eat him. He is then reborn as her child and becomes the legendary bard Taliesin.

Legends

Circe

The Odyssey by Homer, approximately 700 BCE, and *Metamorphoses* by Ovid, 8 BCE

Ancient Greece / Rome

An enchantress and expert in potions. The best known story is when Odysseus and his ship visit her island of Aeaea, and she turns many of his crew into swine. She is also responsible for turning her rival Scylla into a monster. In art and music she is frequently portrayed as being surrounded by different types of animals.



Deborah

Approximately 1107-1067 BCE

Found in Christian and Jewish religious texts

In the Book of Judges she is a prophet and the only female judge mentioned in the Christian Bible. She gives her judgments beneath a date palm tree. The Song of Deborah refers to Judges 5:2-13 in the Christian Bible and is a hymn about the defeat of Canaanite adversaries by a group of the tribes of Israel.



Himiko 卑弥呼

Approximately 170-248

Japan

Early Chinese dynastic histories record tributary relationships between the Japanese Shaman Himiko and the Cao Wei kingdom of 220-265. The historical records also state that Himiko was chosen to rule by the people following decades of fighting. Although she was Queen of Yamataikoku, there is widespread controversy about where Yamato was located.





Hua Mulan

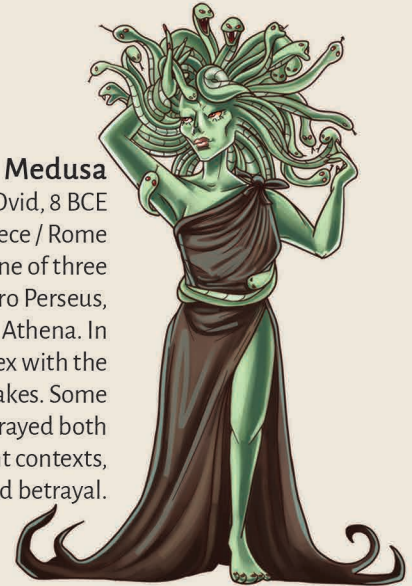
The Ballad of Mulan, probably written during the Han dynasty of 386-535 Northern China

Hua Mulan takes her father's place in the army. After distinguishing herself in battle, she turns down an offer of a high-ranking job, asking the Emperor only for a fast horse back to her home town. Once home, she astonishes her former comrades, who had served alongside her for years without realising she was a woman. Although the original ballad is fairly short, the story has been retold many times in literature, theatre, film and television.

A gorgon with snakes for hair. She is sometimes depicted as one of three sisters and sometimes alone. Her gaze turns men into stone. She is killed by the hero Perseus, who then uses her head to defeat a sea monster, eventually giving it to Athena. In *Metamorphoses* by the Roman poet Ovid, Medusa is a beautiful maiden who has sex with the sea god Neptune in Athena's temple, who then turns her beautiful hair into snakes. Some tales suggest the sex was consensual, others that it was rape. She has been portrayed both as a monster and as a victim in different contexts, as well as a symbol of female rage and betrayal.

Medusa

Greek Myth and *Metamorphoses* by Ovid, 8 BCE
Ancient Greece / Rome



Nitocris

Approximately 2200 BCE
Ancient Egypt

Possibly the last Pharaoh of Egypt's sixth dynasty, it is uncertain whether she existed. The historian Herodotus, writing in 430 BCE, said she sought revenge for her brother's murder by gathering together prominent Egyptians who had a role in his death. She invited them to attend a banquet in a specially constructed underground chamber, which she then flooded with water from the river. While she isn't mentioned in any of the Egyptian inscriptions, she has been used as a fictional Pharaoh in literature, theatre, and video games.

Legends

Queen of Sheba

Approximately 1000 BCE

Ethiopia

Found in various religious stories, the Queen of Sheba exchanges both gifts and wits with Solomon. She appears with a caravan of gifts, including spices, gold, and precious stones.

In some versions of the story, she marries Solomon and starts a line of kings. There is disagreement about where the Queen of Sheba comes from, with the most extensive versions suggesting Ethiopia.



Rhiannon

Folktale

From the *Mabinogion* (compiled 12-13th century from earlier oral traditions, written in manuscripts dating 1350-1410, the earliest British prose stories)

Wales

Quick-witted and strategic, Rhiannon appears in multiple tales, first in choosing a husband and later in undoing enchantments. She is particularly connected with horses, and in the first tale she appears on a magical horse which can never be caught despite appearing to move slowly.



Ada Lovelace

Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace

1815-1852

England

A brilliant English mathematician and writer, the daughter of poet Lord Byron and mathematician Baroness Wentworth. She worked with Charles Babbage on the famous Analytical Engine. She was the first to recognise that the machine had capabilities beyond pure calculation, and the first to publish such a theory. Her work led to computing, and the computer language Ada was named after her. She has been extensively portrayed in literature, film, and television.



Alice Ball

1892-1916

Washington State, USA

A brilliant chemist who developed the most effective treatment for leprosy during the early 20th century. Called the Ball Method, it involved injections of modified chaulmoogra oil. It was not a complete cure, but was the only effective treatment until sulfonamide drugs were developed in the 1940s. Alice was the first woman and the first African American to receive a Masters degree from the University of Hawaii. She died at the age of 24, after becoming ill a few months before.



Ana Neri

Ana Justina Ferreira Néri

1814-1880

Brazil

A Brazilian nurse, most famous for volunteering during the Paraguayan War. She founded a nursing home in the occupied city of Asuncion, and is generally considered to be Brazil's first nurse and the person who introduced modern nursing into Brazil. The first official school of nursing in Brazil was named after her.

Science

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

1836-1917

England

The first woman in Britain to qualify as a physician and surgeon. She initially trained as a surgery nurse at Middlesex Hospital, and although she was allowed to take extra medical classes privately, was not permitted to enrol in the hospital medical or several other medical schools. She obtained certificates in anatomy and physiology through private instruction, and then entered the Society of Apothecaries, finally obtaining a licence to practise medicine in 1865. As medical jobs in hospitals were still closed to her, despite having a licence, she opened her own practice. Less than ten years later she co-founded the London School of Medicine for Women, the only teaching hospital to offer courses for women. She was active in the suffrage movement, and was the first female mayor in Britain.



Hypatia

Approximately 350-415

Alexandria, Egypt

A philosopher, mathematician, and astronomer. She was preceded by other female mathematicians, but is the first whose life is well recorded. She had great influence over the political elite of Alexandria, which included groups of different religions, and her counsel was often sought. She provided advice to the Roman prefect, Orestes, on his political feud with the Bishop, and as a result was murdered by a Christian mob. Hypatia's murder shocked the Roman Empire. She has been co-opted as a symbol of virtue, of learning, and of women's rights.



Marie Curie

Marie Salomea Skłodowska–Curie

1867-1934

Poland (part of the Russian Empire), died in France

Polish-French physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research into radioactivity. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and the first person to win a Nobel Prize twice. She is the only person to have won a Nobel Prize in two different sciences: physics in 1903 and chemistry in 1911. Working with her husband and another colleague, she was a pioneer of the theory of radioactivity. She invented her own techniques for isolating radioactive isotopes, and discovered the elements polonium and radium.

A Scottish-Jamaican healer and businesswoman, and possibly the first practitioner-nurse. She volunteered her medical services during the Crimean War, but was rejected. In response she set up the British Hotel behind military lines, using holistic healing practices including rest, diet, and hygiene. The fact that she was on the front lines meant that she could visit the battlefield herself in order to reach the wounded.

After the Crimean War ended she was left destitute until former patients held a fundraising gala.

Mary Seacole

1805-1881

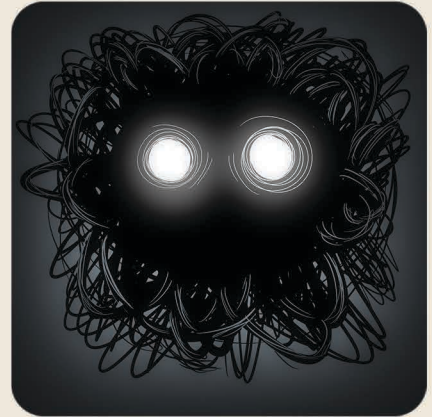
Jamaica



Terrors

Anxiety

This very real Terror was among the many suggestions we received when we asked our social media followers what they were afraid of. It's certainly held back many characters from fiction, and has probably stopped a lot of people from following their dreams and achieving their goals. It's always been the one that our playtesters have feared the most, but also the most satisfying to defeat! Please look after your mental health, and reach out to friends, family, your doctor, or national services if you need support.



Basilisk

Basilisks appear in European folk tales. In some stories a basilisk is a giant snake with a dragon-like head, while in other stories it also has body parts of a bird. It can kill with a glare, a hiss, or with a bite. The basilisk's weaknesses are the smell of a weasel, the crow of a rooster, and mirrors.

Big Bad Wolf

The Big Bad Wolf appears in multiple folk tales and children's stories from Britain and Europe. The wolf (temporarily) tricks Little Red Riding Hood into thinking he is her grandmother asleep in bed. A similar wolf appears in *The Three Little Pigs*, where he blows down straw and stick houses before being defeated by a brick house.





Bunyip

A swampy creature from Australia. The bunyip appears in several different Aboriginal traditions, and descriptions vary. It is often large, and may have dark fur. The version shared with us was said to resemble a watery wombat and be a frightening tale to warn small children away from water. Bunyips are found in wet places such as swamps, rivers, creeks, and billabongs.

From Greek mythology. Cerberus is a vicious, multi-headed dog who guards the gates of the underworld. Some descriptions include serpents as tails. In one of the most famous legends, Orpheus calms Cerberus by playing music on his lyre.

Cerberus



Chupacabra

A blood-drinking creature mainly spoken about in Central and South America. It is sometimes described as a dog with dark spikes or spines along its back, although at other times it is spoken of as being like a reptile. The chupacabra is a relatively recent myth, with sightings reported in the 1970s and the name being coined in the 1990s.

Terrors

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Robert Louis Stevenson's short novella from the Victorian era focuses on the trials and tribulations of the unfortunate Dr Henry Jekyll after he hits upon a formula that makes him transform into the violent and murderous Edward Hyde. This novella almost certainly inspired Marvel Comics to create the Incredible Hulk!



Dracula

Possibly the most famous literary vampire, from Bram Stoker's 1897 novel. Vampiric creatures appear in many cultures, both historic and modern – Ancient Babylonia had folk tales of demons who drank blood, while in many parts of South East Asia a vampire detaches her head and some internal organs in order to search for blood.

Fenrir

In Norse mythology, Fenrir is one of the children of Loki. He takes the form of a gigantic wolf, and is bound by the gods. He bites off the right hand of Tyr, and is prophesied to kill Odin. His story is told mainly in the Prose Edda, a collection of Norse folk tales written in the 14th century in Iceland.





Forest of Thorns

Appearing in various folk tales, the Forest of Thorns is a classic enchanted obstacle. In *Sleeping Beauty*, the prince has to battle his way through the forest to get to the princess who is being held captive in the tower.

Grendel's Mother

In the Old English poem *Beowulf*, the hero needs to defeat not just the monster Grendel, but also Grendel's Mother. She is described as a watery creature living in a cave under a lake, and she seeks revenge on Beowulf for the death of her son. There is little consensus among scholars on what she should look like, as some of the words used to describe her have contentious translations.



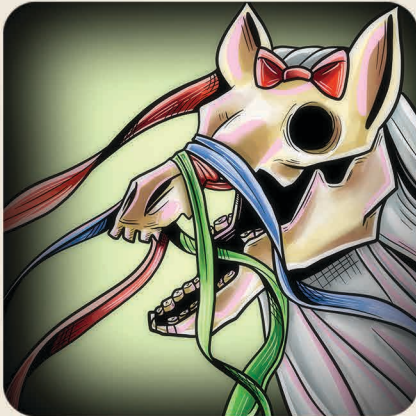
Jabberwock

The Jabberwocky is a nonsense poem written by Lewis Carroll in 1871, in which a monstrous creature with “jaws that bite [and] claws that catch” is defeated.

Terrors

Kraken

A cephalopod-like sea monster which appears first in mediaeval Norwegian accounts, and then in Swedish, Danish, and German works. It appears in a poem by Alfred Tennyson (1830), Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* (1851) and novels by Victor Hugo and Jules Verne.



Mari Lwyd

The Mari Lwyd comes from a Welsh wassailing tradition. Around Christmas time, a hooded horse's skull is mounted on a pole and carried around the houses in the local area by a small group of men in traditional costumes. There is a short exchange of songs between the travelling group and the residents of the home, where the group try to gain access to the home, they are initially refused, and then eventually admitted. Once inside, they demand food and drink whilst the Mari Lwyd snaps its jaws, causes havoc, and frightens the children. The roots of this tradition are unknown, but most accounts infer that more modern instances have been welcomed as entertainment by the locals.

Martian Robots

The Martian Robots appear in H.G. Wells' classic novel *The War of the Worlds* (1898), when they start invading London and the surrounding areas. This novel has seen many adaptations in recent years, including radio, television, film, and stage versions, and even inspired Jeff Wayne's iconic rock concert album in the 1970s.



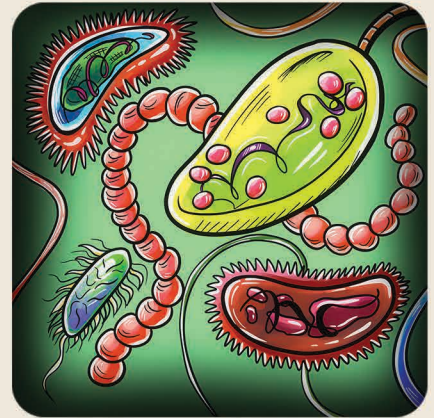


Minotaur

The Minotaur is a creature from Ancient Greek myth. With the body of a man and the head of a bull, it was imprisoned in a labyrinth by King Minos. It was eventually defeated by Theseus, after he received assistance and advice from Minos' daughter, Ariadne. In most versions of the story, Ariadne gives Theseus a ball of thread to help him find his way through the maze.

The Great Plague of 1665 was an historical event of epic proportions, unlike anything London had seen before. More recent pandemics such as Spanish Flu (1918-20), Swine Flu (2009-10), Bird Flu (1997-2017), and Covid-19, have brought home the reality of deadly diseases.

Plague



The King in Yellow

The King in Yellow is a book of short stories by Robert W. Chambers, published in 1895. The first four stories in the collection reference a play by the same title, which allegedly causes despair and madness in anyone who reads it. The short stories are written in a gothic, haunting style, which feels oppressive and mirrors the feelings supposedly caused by reading the play – which remains mysterious and unexplained. This book also inspired H.P. Lovecraft in the creation of certain aspects of his Cthulhu myths.

Terrors

The Pit and the Pendulum

The Pit and the Pendulum is a short story published in 1842 by Edgar Allan Poe. A gothic horror story, the narrator is imprisoned in a pitch dark cell and narrowly escapes first a deep pit and then a razor-sharp pendulum swinging from the ceiling, before being rescued from the red-hot closing walls of the cell.

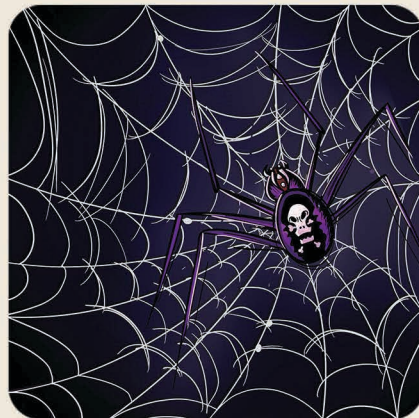


Reichenbach Falls

Reichenbach Falls is a waterfall near the village of Meiringen in Switzerland. It is featured in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes series as the location where Sherlock stages his death, after a fierce battle with his nemesis Professor Moriarty.

Spider Webs

Spiders and their webs appear in multiple stories, from Shelob in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* to the more recent Harry Potter books. While they are often portrayed as scary, spiders can be good, such as in *Charlotte's Web* (1952), or chaotic, such as Anansi, who is one of the oldest legends of a trickster.





Triffids

The Triffids were originally the monstrous plants from John Wyndham's 1951 novel *The Day of the Triffids*, and later appeared in various film and television adaptations. The best known versions are the 1981 BBC mini-series and the 1962 film version. In the story, most of the world's population is blinded by a meteor shower, and subsequently they are killed by these aggressively carnivorous plants. While the films and later interpretations often differ from the book in how they end, the Triffids remain terrifying killer plants.

Tornado

The most famous tornado in literature probably comes from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (1900), in which Dorothy and her dog Toto are swept away from Kansas to the land of Oz.



Wormhole

A standard trope in science fiction, wormholes are more inconvenient than terrifying. One of the first short stories to use a wormhole was *The Meteor Girl* in 1931, and wormholes now appear as obstacles or plot devices in many films.

DISSENT

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