Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

200
1822 - 2022

MYTHIC STORYTELLING: TOOLS FOR CREATIVE WRITERS

Myth and Mythology:
How Stories Shape the World
HPHP4006

Dr. Sarah Reynolds

CREATIVE WRITING METHODOLOGY

1. **Practice-led research:** writing a poem, story, personal essay
2. **Critical commentary:** reflecting upon sources of inspiration, research, tools of craft, literary context

In this introduction, we'll consider:

- What are the components of mythic storytelling?
- How do these stories speak to us today?
- What tools can we take from them?
- How do we respond to them, creatively?

All that we have here
Is all that we've always had.

We have jealousy,
tenderness,
curses and gifts.

But the plight of a people who have forgotten
their myths
and imagine that somehow
now is all that there is –
is a sorry plight

Extract from ***Brand New Ancients*** by Kae Tempest
(London: Picador, 2013)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLWlB3ib7ZM

STORIES THAT TRANSCEND TIME



Thor, **dir. By Kenneth Branagh (Marvel, 2011)**

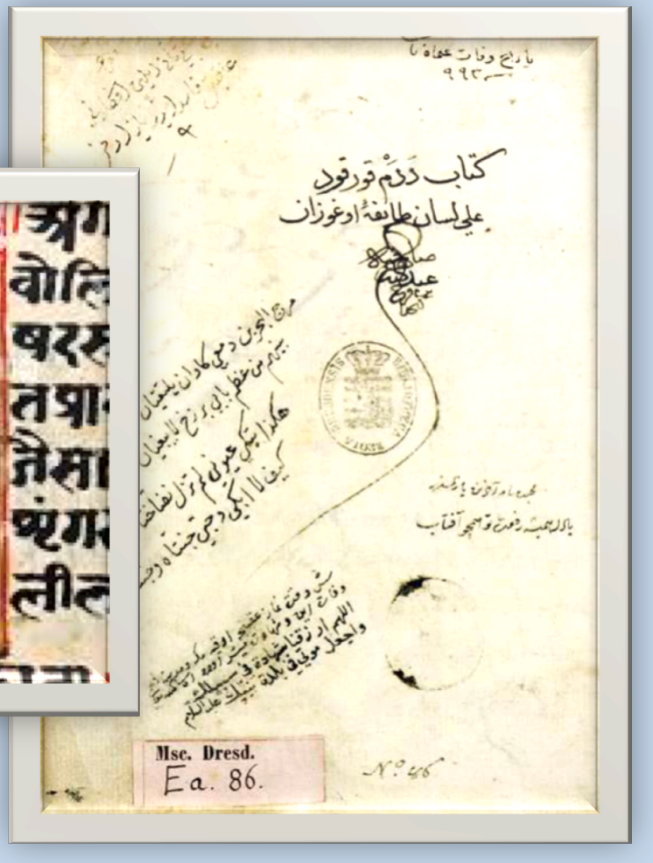


The runic inscription on this 10th century Viking 'Mjöllnir' amulet reads: Hmar x is (This is a hammer).

FROM ORAL TRADITIONS TO THE WRITTEN WORD







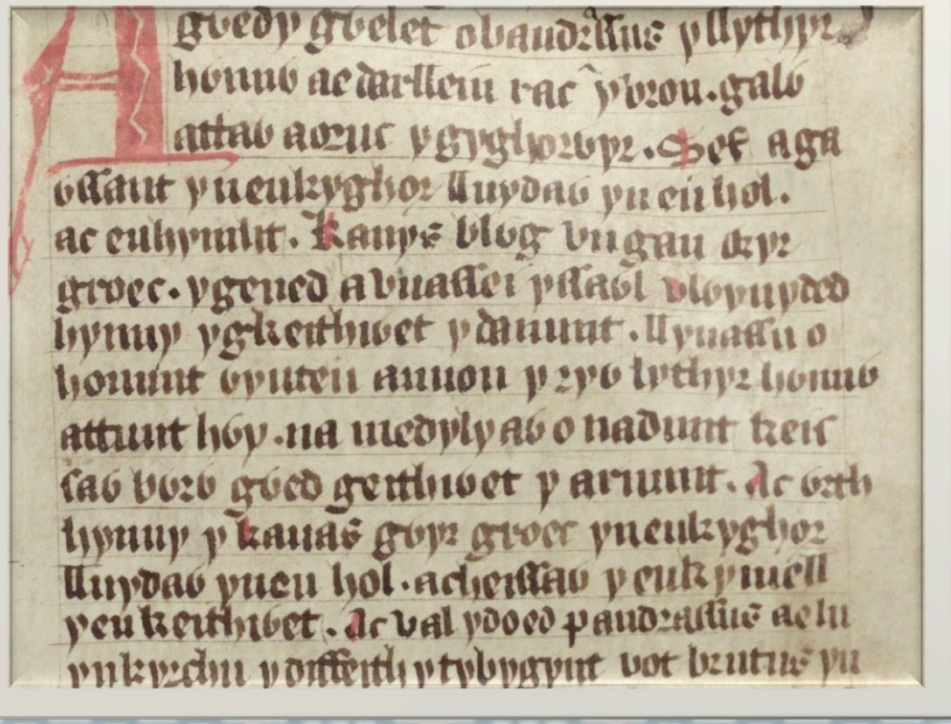
The Norse poetic and prose Eddas: circa 13th C CE.

The Indian Rāmāyana: circa 700 BCE.

The Turkish Book of Dede Korkut: circa 14th C CE.

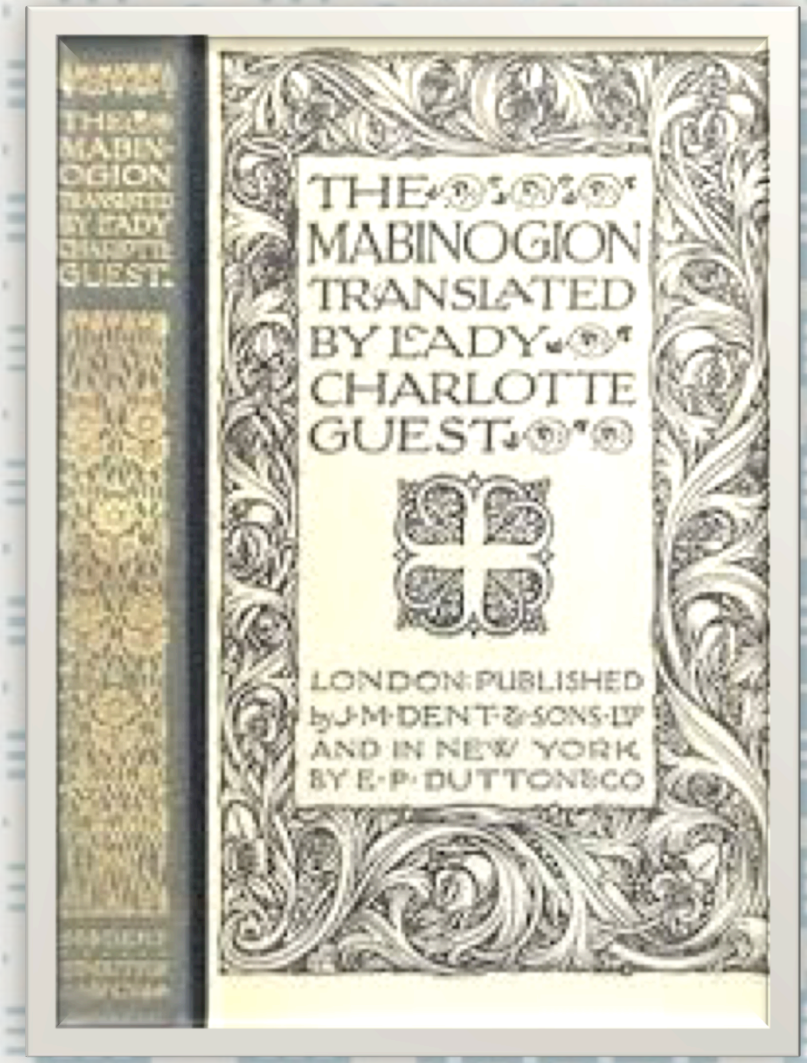
Y MABINOGI





- **Llyfr Coch Hergest: the Red Book of Hergest c. 1382.**
- **Llyfr Gwyn Rhydderch: the White Book of Rhydderch c. 1325–1400**

THE MABINOGION



- **Lady Charlotte Guest translated the tales into English between 1838-1845.**
- **She copied down a scribal error: the suffix '-ion' is a common plural ending in Welsh.**
- **'Y Mabinogi' became 'The Mabinogion'.**



REIMAGININGS

- Oral traditions favoured performance, poetry and song to aid memory
- Literary transpositions: translations, novels, short stories
- Film, radio, theatre, TV, computer games







THE HALLMARKS OF MYTH

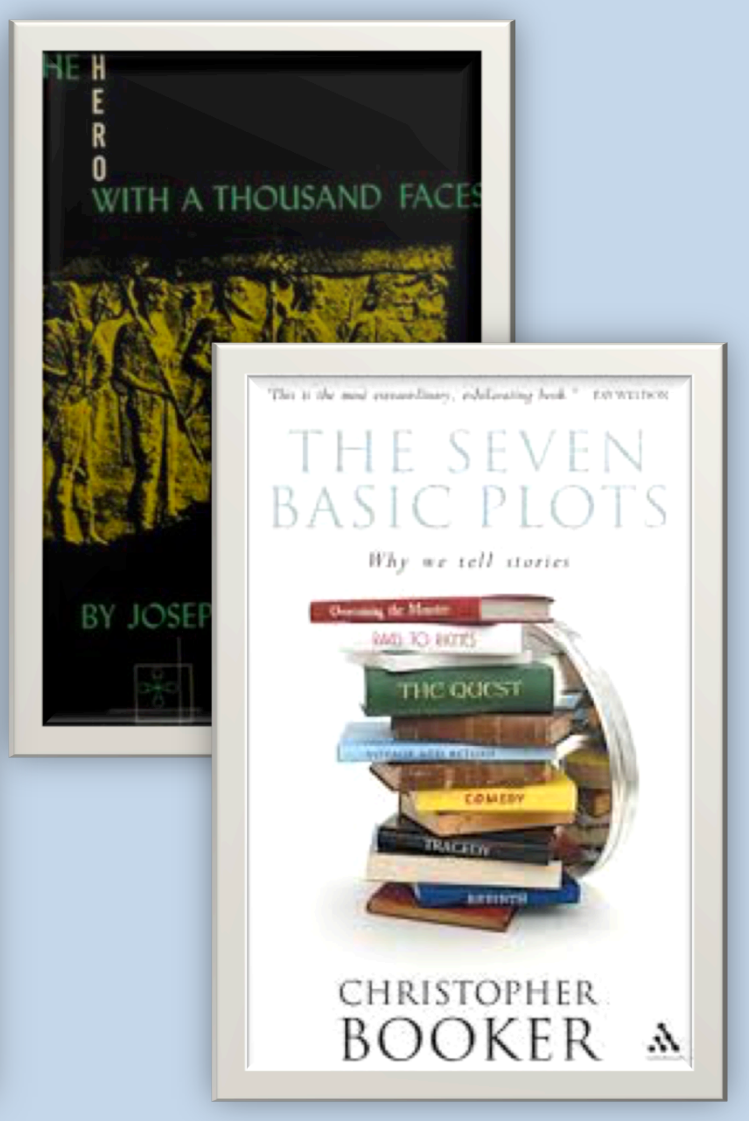




- Universal themes: life, death, love, battle, jealousy, greed, revenge…
- Magic, magicians and a world beyond our own
- Gods and goddesses
- Fantastical beasts, giants and shape-shifters
- Archetypal figures: fair maiden, wise sage, brave warrior

THE MYTH OF THE MONOMYTH?





THE MABINOGION



We'll be looking at the story: 'How Culhwch Won Olwen' from The Mabinogion and an excerpt from Fflur Dafydd's modern re-interpretation of the story: *The White Trail*.

The Creative Writing workshop will offer you a chance to experiment with writing a literary transposition of a myth of your choice.