**Resources**

Bo Almquist, ‘Of Mermaids and Marriages: Seamus Heaney’s *an Maighdean Mara* and Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill’s *an Maighdean Mara* in the Light of Folk Tradition.’ Beoloideas, Iml 58 (1990), pp.1-74

Gregory Darwin, ‘On Mermaids, Meroveus, and Melusine: Reading the Irish Seal Woman and Melusine as Origin Legend.’ Folklore, vol. 126, number 2 (August 2015). P. 123

Annie G. Gilchrist, ‘Note on the "Lady Drest in Green" and Other Fragments of Tragic Ballads and Folk-Tales Preserved amongst Children.’ Journal of the Folk Song Society, vol. 6. No. 22 (June 1919), pp. 80-90.

Seamus Heaney’s ‘Beowulf’

Carolyne Larrington, *The Land of the Green Man*: *A Journey through the Supernatural Landscapes of the British Isles*, I.B Tauris & Co, 2015

Jennifer Westwood and Jacqueline Simpson, *The Lore of the Land: A Guide to England's Legends, from Spring-heeled Jack to the Witches of Warboys*, Penguin, 2005

**Inspiration & Approaches**

Until my early twenties, I was so terrified of water that I couldn’t be in the deep end of a swimming pool without a sense of panic and dread. I had had a near drowning experience and so large bodies of water were, for me, hostile domains of weird, slimy and alien creatures. I remember discovering H.P. Lovecraft’s Cthulhu mythos and thinking, yes, if anything is going to be the home of such a terrifying being, it’s going to be the ocean. Even now, after I’ve worked towards actually enjoying a splash in the ocean, you would never find me swimming in the open sea, for instance. The idea of a black abyss gaping beneath my pathetic kicking feet is too much to bear. Of course, I’m an avid runner and hiker and I love the challenging landscapes of the south coast of England, with the sound of crashing waves always very near - but a part of that love is that those soaring landscapes also present dangers. They are humbling in terms of my human feebleness. The perfect place for strange beings to give the proud human hide a right good thrashing. But I would never ever be stupid enough to jump right into that fey portal, the open sea, with no solid ground to grab onto and with the ocean floor utterly inaccessible to my land loving feet. Apologies to those of you that do this sort of thing. But I’ll stand my ground - it’s very foolish, given what lurks beneath!

Another source of inspiration was Seamus Heaney’s ‘Beowulf’ and his masterful description of Grendel’s mother and the witch-tarn that was her lair. The descriptions inspired the turns of phrase depicting the various water beings in my own tales and their thematic link of the aquatic wyrd.

Lastly, another source that fired my imagination was an article from 1919, which can be viewed on Jstor, called ‘Note on the "Lady Drest in Green" and Other Fragments of Tragic Ballads and Folk-Tales Preserved amongst Children.’ In one section, the writer briefly discusses Jenny Greenteeth, who appears ‘as the green scum on stagnant water.’ Shudder. The immediate image of a being slowly being formed from a layer of pond scum and then reaching greedy hands for unwary children made for some deliciously creepy storytelling, while also exploring the underlying historical and cultural theme of the vulnerability of children in a dangerous world.

**Suggested Reading & Viewing**

Films

The Host (Korean film)

Song of the Sea (Irish animation)

A time lapse video of the construction of the ‘Kelpies’ sculptures in Scotland: <http://www.qmu.ac.uk/marketing/press_releases/Kelpies-fillm.htm>

Books, Short Stories etc

‘The Kelpies: Making the World's Largest Equine Sculptures’ by Andy Scott

‘The Collected Works of H.P Lovecraft’

‘Beowulf’ by Seamus Heaney

‘Kelpie’ by Emma Weakley (online comic at <http://porceliandoll.deviantart.com/gallery/25937237/Kelpie>)

For Jenny Greenteeth in popular culture, scroll down to the bottom of this article:

<https://archive.org/stream/JennyGreenTeeth/JennyGreenTeeth_djvu.txt>

In both the book ‘Outlander’ (chapter 18) and an episode of the show entitled ‘Both Sides Now,’ there is a story told of a water horse that steals away a human wife.