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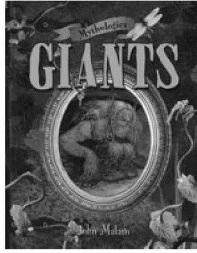
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MALAM, John

Mythologies Series: Giants (978-1-926853-44-4); **Dragons** (978-1-926853-42-0); **Fairies** (978-1-926853-43-7); **Monsters** (978-1-926853-45-1)
Saunders Book Co., 2011. 32p. Illus. Gr. 3-6.
Pbk. \$9.95 ea.

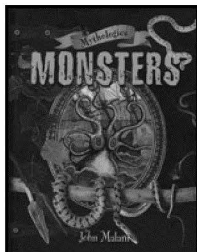
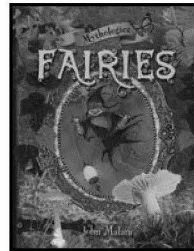
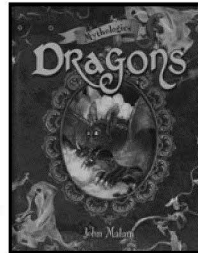
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These intriguing books bring together vivid colour illustrations and photographs with brief retellings of folklore and mythology from around the world. Perfect for readers who like to see their monsters, dragons, giants, and fairies in dramatic detail, these books intersperse folk tales and myths with contextual sidebars, maps, and captions for photos and illustrations. Each book includes a brief glossary and an index.

Malam draws on a range of mythological creatures as varied as the Greek three-headed dog Cerberus that guarded the entrance to Hades, the Scandinavian sea-monster Kraken, the wingless Chinese and Japanese dragons, and the Irish fairy-king Finvarra. He also provides additional details about topics including changelings, Japanese dragon shrines, Thor's hammer, and the twelve labours of Heracles. Each book provides an overview of its subject, and the well-written folk tales may encourage readers to seek out additional information and lengthier versions of the stories.

Although these mythological creatures are ancient, Malam also includes references to modern re-tellings in contemporary culture. One such example is Shrek, who gets his name from the German word *schreck*, meaning "terror", and whose amiable character differs substantially from the ogres of traditional stories. These books could be usefully incorporated into units on fairy tales and mythology.



Thematic Links: Giants; Mythology; Folklore; Dragons; Fairies; Monsters

Kristine Moruzi