# Week 4: Ocean Mythology

## Books for Adults

### Illustration of a mermaid swimming down through seaweed towards left side of cover. In grayscale tinted aqua blue-green. DB 81731 *Mermaid and other water spirit tales from around the world: folklore about mermaids and other merfolk* by Heidi Anne Heiner

Annotation: This collection gathers over 150 folktales, fairy tales, and ballads from around the world about mermaids and other water spirits, together with information on their history. Includes examples of the earliest scholarship on mermaids and similar creatures. Violence. 2011.

### DB 104942 *The last odyssey* by James Rollins

Annotation: In the frozen tundra of Greenland, a group of climatologists and archaeologists uncover a medieval ship buried a half mile below the ice. Inside are priceless treasures, including a clockwork map that traces the path of Odysseus's ship after leaving Troy. It also reveals the entrance to Tartarus. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020

### DB 80796 *Jason and the Argonauts* by Apollonius

Annotation: Translation in verse of Ancient Greek poem detailing the voyage of the hero Jason and his crew, the Argonauts--including Heracles and Orpheus, as they search for the Golden Fleece at the directive of King Pelias. They encounter treachery of all kinds, both from mortal and immortal foes. Some violence. 2014.

### Illustration of a great white shark upside down on a background of yellow at the top changing to orange at the bottom.DB 98952 *Sharks in the time of saviors* by Kawai Strong Washburn

Annotation: In 1995, seven-year-old Hawaiian boy Nainoa Flores falls overboard on a ship. He is rescued by sharks, which his family believes marks him as favored by the gods. But as time passes, this supposed divine favor begins to drive the family apart. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

### Cream seashell with the book title on it on top of gold and navy floral print on a cerulean background. DB 93081 *The mermaid and Mrs. Hancock* by Imogen Hermes Gowar

Annotation: 1785. Merchant Jonah Hancock is shocked when one of his ship's captains returns home with the news that he sold the ship for the mummified remains of a mermaid. All of London wants to see the wonder, and Jonah finds himself engaged in a perilous liaison. Contains some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

### DB 54582 *Folklore and the sea* by Mystic Seaport Museum

Annotation: A collection of maritime traditions, legends, beliefs, and superstitions about shipbuilding, weather, mermaids, sea monsters, specter ships, and related topics. Includes a selection of songs and chanteys. 1973.

## Books for Youths

### Illustration of a mermaid with turquoise tale curling up with pink fins. She has long brown hair with jewels in it.DB 38698 *Mermaid tales from around the world* by Mary Pope Osborne

Annotation: A collection of twelve water maid tales from a wealth of different cultures and times. The author notes that mermaids, unlike other women in folklore, are universally portrayed as fierce, strong characters. Includes the French "Mystery of Melusine," the Irish "The Enchanted Cap," the Nigerian "The Fish Husband," and Japanese, Persian, German, Greek, and Native American legends. For grades 3-6 and older readers.

### DB 83297 *Mocha Dick: the legend and fury* by Brian J. Heinz

Annotation: The original great white whale, first spied off the coast of Chile in 1810, becomes a prime target for whalers as he thrashes about the Pacific and achieves legendary status. For grades 2-4. 2014.

### DB 86573 *Moana* by Suzanne Francis

Annotation: In the ancient South Pacific, Moana, a born navigator, sets sail in search of a fabled island. She teams up with the legendary demi-god Maui, and they encounter enormous sea creatures and more. Adaptation of the Disney film version. For grades 2-4 and older readers. 2016.

### Illustration of a young girl holding a ball of light swimming down towards animal skull and other bones at the bottom of a body of water.DB 92029 *City of islands* by Kali Wallace

Annotation: Orphaned and now a diver for the powerful Lady of the Tides, young Mara makes a startling discovery of magical bones on the ocean floor. The reward she expects doesn't materialize, and, instead, Mara is tasked with uncovering where the bones' origin. For grades 6-9. 2018.

### DB 87073 *Jason and the Argonauts: the first great quest in Greek mythology* by Robert Byrd

Annotation: A recounting of the legend of Greek hero Jason, the gifted Argonauts, and their dangerous quest to retrieve the magical Golden Fleece--said to have been sent by the Gods of Olympus. For grades 3-6. 2016.

### *Illustration of large squid tentacles with one wrapped around a person holding him upside down.*DB 72615 *Here there be monsters: the legendary kraken and the giant squid* by H. P. Newquist

Annotation: Traces human knowledge of enormous sea creatures from Greek myth and sailor's tales to Melville and Verne's literary works and scientific evidence slowly gathered from around the world. Describes modern technological advances that enable marine researchers to probe the ocean depths for these elusive colossal squid. For grades 5-8. 2010.

### DB 55978 *Water: tales of elemental spirits* by Robin McKinley

Annotation: Six stories about fabulous creatures associated with water. In "Mermaid Song," by Peter Dickinson, orphan Pitiable Nasmith is beaten by her miserable grandfather, Probity Hooke, until the day she rescues an injured sea-child and thereby saves herself. For grades 6-9. 2002.

### DB 100195 *A song below water* by Bethany C. Morrow

Annotation: In a society that persecutes sirens, Tavia struggles to hide her powers. Meanwhile, her best friend, Effie, is fighting against literal demons from her past. But everything changes in the aftermath of a siren murder trial that rocks the nation. Some violence. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

### *Illustration of three people running across a bridge suspended between two cliffs above mists of waterfalls with a ship in the background. A huge eye overlooks everything in the far background.*DB 64659 *The sea of monsters: Percy Jackson and the Olympians, book 2* by Rick Riordan

Annotation: Upstate New York, 2006. Seventh-grader Percy, son of Poseidon and a mortal, learns that Camp Half-Blood is in danger. He and his friends undertake a perilous journey into the Sea of Monsters to save their beloved camp. Sequel to The Lightning Thief (DB 63443). For grades 5-8. 2006.