

Discovering... **fantasy**

Join us on an epic adventure through the world of fantasy. There's more to the genre than meets the eye, and our selection from the British Library's collection will take you on a journey from folk tales and fairy stories to epics and quests, into weird and uncanny realms and through portals into different worlds.

Take your pick from our selection and explore this sheet in your library, at home or on the go. Where will your imagination take you?

Explore the British Library collection

Fantasy and fairy tale

(online resource)

Find out how 20th-century writers used fantasy and traditional tales to make sense of the world around them. Explore the multiverse of Philip Pullman, learn how Tolkien used map-making to create imagined worlds and immerse yourself in the world of Angela Carter's modern-day fairy tales in a series of articles.

Journeys in children's books

(online resource)

One of the most wonderful things about books is their ability to transport us to different worlds, times and places. Discover why journeys are an important feature of children's books, from *The BFG* to *Treasure Island*.

The Bloody Chamber

(online resource)

'Each century tends to create or re-create fairy tales after its own taste.' (Angela Carter, 1977)

With this collection of subversive short stories, Angela Carter upturned the western European tradition of fairy tales and folk narratives. Published in a decade of growing feminist activism, the tales address female sexuality, identity and agency.

Fantastical lands

(online resource)

The epic *Ramayana* has been performed throughout India and South East Asia for at least 2,000 years. Journey to fantastical lands and explore stories of monkeys, bears and magic battles in one of the most beautiful manuscripts in the world. *Ramayana* is still a living performance tradition today.





Heroes

(online resource)

Today we're familiar with superheroes from the world of film – but heroes and heroines have a deep and long history. Travel back in time to medieval England to find out more and meet Beowulf, one of the earliest heroes in English literature, and zoom in closer to the original manuscript.

Beowulf

(recording, 1 minute)

Listen to a recording of the opening lines of *Beowulf* in Old English (with subtitles in Modern English).

Toys, games and gaming industry guide

(online resource)

Got a great idea for a board game? Want to start a business in the gaming industry? This detailed guide includes everything you need to know about the toys, games and gaming industry to get your business off the ground.

Gothic playlist

(playlist, various)

Immerse yourself in this Gothic playlist, with sound recordings from the British Library's sound archive. Lose yourself in forest soundscapes, shudder at the sound of crashing thunder and listen out for those creaky gates and screaming animals.

Alice in Wonderland

(video, 59 minutes)

"What is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures or conversations?" (*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*)

This event recording has both: live illustration from the multi-award winning writer and illustrator Chris Riddell, conversation and performances of iconic scenes from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by an amazing selection of actors.

Literature Matters: Neil Gaiman and Marlon James in Conversation

(video, 1 hour, 34 minutes)

Neil Gaiman and Marlon James, two of the world's most popular fantasy writers, share a lifelong love of the mythic and the transcendent power of the imagination.

In a unique conversation about why literature matters to them, the literary A-Listers explore the importance of escapism and the value of spending time in invented worlds.

Ready to begin exploring?

Explore these and a whole host of other resources at living-knowledge-network.co.uk/resources

