

### **Myth, Time, and Water in Miss. Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children**

Water plays a significant role in Ransom Riggs's intriguing time-slip series *Miss. Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, particularly its relationship to time and myth. Riggs's novels clearly pull from Greek mythology, especially with his character Sharon, derived from Charon or the boatman from Greek mythology. Water frequently acts as the permeable border between time and space in Rigg's YA fantasy series, allowing his characters to travel back to the distant past or return to the present, but it also acts as the source of his characters' peculiar powers, revealed in his last novel. When the wrights bathe in the souls of deceased peculiars, they gain their abilities and forever forfeit their humanity, further disfiguring their already mutated forms. Their insatiable thirst for greater power and wholeness is a striking theme running throughout the narrative and demonstrates the pervasiveness of water's significance to the series. Water's nature is duplicitous: it is toxic, black, and treacherous in industrial London and pure, clear, and forgiving in England's ancient past. In Rigg's series, water is a force of eternity and erasure, granting endless power while simultaneously eroding everything it touches. My presentation will pull for research by Roberta Seelinger Trites, Agata Zarzycka, Danette DiMarco, and Danuta Fjellestad.