

Dorota Bazylczyk & Anna Mik  
PhD Students of the Faculty of “Artes Liberales”  
University of Warsaw

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***Monstrous Women in the Globalized World: Images of Selected Female Characters from Classical Mythology in the Contemporary Children’s and Young Adults’ Culture***

Monsters and women have been frequently analyzed by various scholars as characters closely related to each other (for example: Scott, Niall, *Monsters and the Monstrous: Myths and Metaphors of Enduring Evil*, Rodopi, 2007; Fisher, Jerily; Silber, Ellen S., *Women in Literature: Reading Through the Lens of Gender*, Greenwood Publishing Group, 2003; Lasoń-Kochańska, Grażyna, *Gender w literaturze dla dzieci i młodzieży. Wzorce płciowe i kobiecy repertuar topiczny*, Stupsk, 2012). This is because, traditionally, many different cultures, often perceived them as connected and combined into a single representation, creating imagined dangerous hybrid female monsters (Kostecka, Skowera).

Most of the examples of monstrous women, come from ancient sources and mythology, where women and dangerous creatures were often treated as a specific, inseparable construct. Via different characters from the culture of ancient Greeks and Romans, like the Gorgons, Hydra, Echidna, etc., the female monsters made their way into the global youth culture, contributing to the current vision of femininity and monstrosity. We want to take a closer look at the representations of female mythological creatures as the constructs that appear in contemporary culture for children and young adults, examining inter alia:

Merwomen in J. K. Rowling’s *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

Medusa in Rick Riordan’s *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*

Siren in Anna Czabanowska-Wróbel’s *Battycka Syrena*

Numerous female monsters in *My Little Pony* series

Female monsters in *I’m a Monster* animation series

By analyzing these examples, we aim to examine the contemporary “female monsters”, how they changed (if so) in relation to classical sources, and why their images are important to young people who inhabit today’s global reality.



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