**Additional Resources for Teachers**

Changelings

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines a “changeling” as “a person or thing (surreptitiously) put in exchange for another;” and as “a child secretly substituted for another in infancy; esp. a child (usually stupid or ugly) supposed to have been left by fairies in exchange for one stolen.” The notion of the changeling is pervasive in many nations’ mythologies and folklore; such stories provided an explanation for why some children were weak or sickly or otherwise imperfect. They also legitimised or excused some terrible abuses of such children by their parents. For a wide range of articles and legends that focus specifically on the legends of the British Isles, check out D. L. Ashliman’s page:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/britchange.html>

Edinburgh’s Storytelling Centre

In *The Storyteller’s Daughter*, Skye learns that storytelling has been an important part of her family history, going back to the Highland clans and the seannachies. Historically, storytelling and oral narrative played an important role in Scottish culture, a fact illustrated by the ongoing existence and vibrancy of Edinburgh’s Scottish Storytelling Centre—where, in the novel, Skye’s grandmother Morag was employed for a time. To learn more about the tradition of storytelling in Scotland, check out the Centre’s website:

<http://www.tracscotland.org/scottish-storytelling-centre>

Memory, Narrative, and Identity

For a lengthy dissertation on the connection between memory, narrative, and identity—particularly as it is represented in Canadian literature—my dissertation can be downloaded from the University of Edinburgh archives.

<https://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/6318>

However, for a more concise discussion, Wikipedia actually provides a relatively reliable and well documented introduction:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narrative_identity>

The Morríghana and the Fates

While *The Storyteller’s Daughter* takes some liberties with the mythical tradition of the Morríghana, there is a rich body of literature upon which the novel draws. Again, Wikipedia provides a relatively reliable place to start:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Morr%C3%ADgan>

The Encyclopedia Mythica provides some fun and interesting tidbits, as does the Order of Bards, Ovates, & Druids (the latter in particular being rather more impassioned than scholarly): <http://www.pantheon.org/articles/m/morrigan.html>

<http://www.druidry.org/library/gods-goddesses/morrigan>

Finally, *Myths and Legends of the Celts* by James MacKillop provides a good starting point for readers who wish to know more in general about the myths and legends of the Celts but who prefer more academic resources.

Seannachies

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines the seannachie as “In Ireland and the Scottish Highlands: One professionally occupied in the study and transmission of traditional history, genealogy, and legend; now chiefly *Sc.* a Gaelic teller of legendary romances.” Once again, Wikipedia has a decent introduction to the seannachie:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seancha%C3%AD>

For an example of one who is considered a contemporary seannachie, see the stories of Eamon Kelly on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzP4FM3WqwY&feature=related>

Taranis

Associated with thunder and human sacrifice, Taranis seems to have inspired fear and horror in his followers. Wikipedia and the Pagan Files discuss the evolution of the god in some detail; for a vivid description of Taranis as he is often depicted in myth and ancient artifacts, see the entry in the Encyclopedia Britannica, which alludes to Taranis riding on a footed serpent. MacKillop’s book, *Myths and Legends of the Celts,* has some good information as well.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taranis>

<http://alkman1.blogspot.ca/2006/09/celtic-thunder-god.html>

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/583342/Taranis>

Tarot Cards

The deck of tarot cards that belonged to Skye’s grandmother and which Skye inherits were inspired by an actual tarot deck designed by Caitlin Matthews. The cards delve into many of the stories and legends of the ancient Celts, and provide a fascinating insight into this body of myths. See the images attached for the cards that frame Skye’s quest; for more information on Caitlin Matthews and a glimpse into her thoughts on storyworlds, see her website:

<http://www.hallowquest.org.uk/hallowquest-meditation6.html>