

12 Things to Consider with a Mythical, Supernatural, Magical Character

1. Be mindful of cultural nuances.
2. Be mindful of historical elements.
3. Know that cultures have different names for the same mythical being. An Irishman's leprechaun is a South American's *el duende*. This can open up your mythological toolbox.
4. Know your audience.
5. Decide which mystical magical elements to focus on.
6. Decide if you want to hint or tease the readers about the character's supernatural abilities. How much do you need to explain or show the readers?
7. Figure out how to make character real, relatable, and flawed. Humanize them. Make sure to
 - give them a personality
 - give them a personal purpose and purpose in the plot
 - give them relatives/family/enemies
 - give them a way to use their super abilities incorrectly and correctly.
8. Reimagine them. Many supernatural and mythical beings are vague, unclear, or some part of them is incomplete. Fill in those vague or incomplete parts.
9. Make them real enough and believable enough to the reader.
10. Like any character, have a character arc, personality traits, needs, desires, weaknesses, and strengths.
 - * I like making it about the character finding something deep within to make themselves stronger. (Like all of us.) Maybe it's the power of love or self-revelation that allows them to realize their full potential or duty to mankind, the community or something greater than themselves. A higher purpose.
11. Are you giving them too much power? Not enough?
12. Be careful about giving them a power that magically saves the day at the end of the story. Remember *deus ex machine* in the Greek plays?