

**LEARNING FOCUS:**

- Reading from different sources
- Organising information for a different audience
- Making notes



# SEAL/GIRL

## Chapter 4: Research and Record



*Seal/Girl is based on Selkie myths which really came from places like the Scottish Isles and Ireland. The idea that we can still find magic in the modern world is fun and appealing. In the book, Gorran looks for a rational explanation for what he has seen, but his thinking is challenged by his neighbour, Mary:*



‘At a distance, he saw old Mary from the cottage opposite with the grey wall...as a child, she was rumoured to have been the last person to have found a silver dollar in Dollar Cove.’

‘Then out of the blue, Mary asked Gorran about the girl in the cave... ‘Sounds to me like a mermaid, or sea spirit or some such thing,’ she said...‘Well, she would be [scared] wouldn’t she? If she really was from the sea. Plenty of examples in legends of them helping folk, they weren’t all temptresses.’

**ACTIVITY:**

Mary seems very open to the idea that mythical creatures such as mermaids may exist. Although she was an engineer says,

‘Not everything can be explained by science yet, you know.’

Cornwall is a county steeped in myths and legends. You are going to research one of these stories and write a short, simple version of the tale aimed at a Year 4 pupil. If you have time, you can illustrate your story.

You can choose from one of the following or find your own. Remember to use more than one site or book as stories may be told several different ways.

**THE GHOST SHIP OF Porthcurno THE GIANTS OF TREEN CASTLE  
THE MERMAID OF ZENNOR**