



Being Supernatural

Some Thoughts

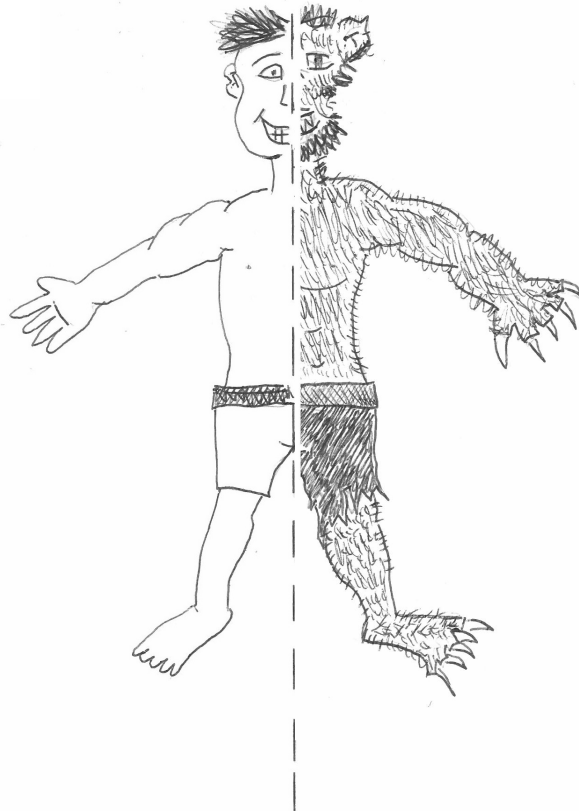
What happens when a being looks like this and acts like this?

Do supernatural creatures think like humans? Do they value the same things?

What function do human-animal hybrids have in medieval culture?

How do medieval writers use the imagined past to explore the present?

[Sarah Peverley](#), a member of the Department of English, is interested in how literature uses the past to reflect on the present, and in how supernatural creatures are represented in literature and art. She is currently working on a history of the mermaid and on literature produced during the Wars of the Roses. She is thankful that her colleague Will Slocombe is better at art than she is.



Should supernatural creatures be read allegorically?

What is 'human'?

What is 'monster'?

What do medieval stories about supernatural encounters reveal about our ancestors' perceptions of what it means to 'be human'?