

Legends of the Whispering Woods: A Mythological Study

Learning objective: To analyze the features of myths and legends, identifying the role of heroes and the quest structure.

Read the passage about the legend of the Silver Glade. Use the word bank to help you answer the questions below. Think carefully about the character's motivations and the moral of the story.

Long ago, in the heart of the Whispering Woods, lived a humble woodcutter named Elara. The village elders spoke of a 'Legend of the Silver Glade', where a fountain of eternal starlight was guarded by a creature of mist. One winter, the village brook froze, and the crops began to wither. Elara decided she must undertake a quest to find the fountain and restore life to the valley. Armed only with her silver axe and a map drawn by her grandfather, she ventured into the deep forest. She encountered a giant owl with feathers like moonlight who challenged her to solve a riddle about the constellations. By showing kindness and wisdom, Elara earned the owl's trust. The owl guided her to the fountain, where she discovered that the 'treasure' was not gold, but a seed of pure light. Upon planting it in the village square, the frost retreated, and the land bloomed once more.

Word bank: Heroic · Mythical · Quest · Courage · Treasure · Supernatural · Legend · Transformation

1. Identify two characteristics of the legend that suggest it is a myth or a piece of folklore. Explain your choices. (2 marks)

2. How does Elara demonstrate the classic traits of a hero? Provide evidence from the text. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the 'treasure' Elara expected to find versus what she actually discovered. Why is this significant? (3 marks)

4. Justify why the author chose the Whispering Woods as the setting for this legend. What atmosphere does it create? (2 marks)

5. What might happen if Elara had chosen to ignore the giant owl's riddle? Predict the outcome. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed illustration of the fountain in the Silver Glade. Focus on the contrast between the 'mist creature' guarding it and the 'seed of light' that Elara plants.



Extension challenge: Write a short myth explaining how a natural feature in your own local area (such as a specific hill, river, or large tree) was created. Include at least one supernatural element and a clear moral lesson for the reader.