

Legends of the Whispering Woods: A Mythological Adventure

Learning objective: To identify the features of a myth and analyze how language creates a sense of mystery and wonder.

Read the story of The Silver Oak carefully, then answer the questions below to test your understanding of myths and legends.

Long ago, before the maps were drawn or the cities built, there stood the Great Silver Oak in the heart of the Whispering Woods. According to ancient village tales, the tree was not made of wood, but of moonlight captured by the earth. It was said that once every hundred years, the tree would drop a single glowing acorn. Legend tells of a brave explorer who set out on a difficult quest to find the acorn, believing it held the power to heal the land's deepest droughts. The explorer had to cross the River of Echoes and solve the riddles of the stone guardians. Many claimed the forest was enchanted, protected by spirits that could turn the wind into a song. While no one ever returned with the acorn, the villagers still tell the story to remind their children that courage is often its own reward.

Word bank: legend · myth · supernatural · quest · heroic · enchanted · ancient · mystery

1. What are two common features of a myth or legend that you can identify in this story? (2 marks)

2. Why did the explorer set out on a quest? Explain the motive behind their journey. (2 marks)

3. The passage describes the forest as 'enchanted'. Find and copy two other words or phrases that add to the sense of mystery. (2 marks)

4. What lesson or 'moral' do the villagers hope to teach their children by telling this story? (2 marks)

5. If the explorer were to buy supplies for their journey, such as a map costing £4.50 and a lantern costing £6.75, what would be the total cost? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw your own version of the Great Silver Oak. Think about how you would illustrate the 'moonlight' and the 'spirits' living within the branches.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are the explorer. Write a short diary entry (50-70 words) describing the moment you first see the Great Silver Oak in the distance.