

The Myth-Maker's Workshop: Crafting Legends with Ellie

Learning objective: To analyse the structural features of myths and legends and apply them to create an original narrative archetype.

Ellie the elephant has been reading ancient scrolls and needs your help! Myths often follow a specific structure: a hero with a unique trait, a supernatural challenge, and a moral lesson. Use the word bank to help you build your own mythical outline. Complete the tasks below to structure your legend, focusing on descriptive language and character development.

Word bank: supernatural · quest · hubris · oracle · deity · transformation · valour · consequence

1. Every legend features a hero with a specific flaw or 'hubris'. Describe a hero for your myth and explain why this trait might lead to a difficult situation. (2 marks)

2. Identify one supernatural element (e.g., a talking beast or a magical object) that could feature in your story. Justify why this element is essential to the hero's journey. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast your hero with a traditional 'brave' character. How does their unique personality change the way they solve problems? (2 marks)

4. Explain why myths often include a moral lesson or an explanation for a natural phenomenon. What message would your legend teach the reader? (2 marks)

5. What might happen if your hero failed their quest? Describe the potential consequence for their village or the world. (2 marks)

6. Justify your choice of setting: why is a mysterious forest or a forgotten mountain range a better backdrop for a legend than a modern city? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of your hero's journey. Include three key locations: the starting village, the site of the supernatural challenge, and the location of the final confrontation. Add labels using sophisticated vocabulary to describe the terrain.



Extension challenge: Write a short prologue (no more than 150 words) for your myth. Ensure you use at least three words from the word bank and include a 'hook' that captures the reader's attention immediately.