

Year 5 English Assessment: Myths and Legends

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of the structure, features, and purpose of traditional myths and legends, and to apply these in creative writing.

Read each question carefully. Use your best handwriting and ensure you use ambitious vocabulary to justify your answers. You have 45 minutes to complete this assessment.

In the ancient valley of Oakhaven, the villagers spoke in hushed tones of the Silver Peak. It was said that the mountain was guarded by a creature of starlight and shadow, a beast that only appeared when the moon turned sapphire. Old scrolls kept by the village elders claimed that the creature was not a monster, but a protector, sent to ensure that the balance of the seasons remained undisturbed. One day, a young explorer named Elara decided that she would climb the peak to find the truth behind the legend.

Word bank: Protagonist · Supernatural · Moral · Heroic · Mythology · Quest · Antagonist · Legendary · Fable · Narrative

1. Identify two common features of a legend present in the passage above. (2 marks)

2. Why might a culture create a myth about a 'protector' of the seasons? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the definition of a 'myth' and a 'legend'. How do they differ in their origins? (4 marks)

4. What might happen if Elara discovers the creature is actually a lonely, misunderstood guardian? Justify your prediction based on the genre of legends. (4 marks)

5. The passage describes the creature as being made of 'starlight and shadow'. Why does the author use this juxtaposition, and what effect does it have on the reader? (3 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Write a narrative paragraph (5-7 sentences) describing Elara's first encounter with the creature at the summit. Focus on using powerful adjectives and sensory imagery to build atmosphere. (5 marks)

7. If you were to invent a new legend for your local area, what natural landmark would be the centre of the story and what 'supernatural' power would it possess? (4 marks)

Draw: Draw your interpretation of the creature from the Silver Peak. Use details from the text to inspire your design, focusing on the concepts of starlight and shadow.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Choose one of the myths you have studied this term. Write a persuasive argument explaining why the moral of that story is still relevant to children in the 21st century.