

The Legend of the Silver Peak

Learning objective: To analyse and evaluate a piece of mythological narrative text, identifying key features of the genre.

Read the passage carefully about the legend of Silver Peak. Answer the questions below, ensuring you use evidence from the text to support your ideas.

In the heart of the Whispering Range, there stands the Silver Peak. Local folklore tells of a time before clocks, when the mountain was not made of stone, but of fallen starlight. Legend claims that a solitary giant, known as the Guardian of the Glade, once climbed the summit to catch the moon's reflection in a basin of crystal water. He sought to bottle the light to guide lost travellers through the treacherous, mist-covered valleys. However, the mountain's peak proved too slippery, and the vessel shattered, spilling shimmering dust across the jagged rocks. Ever since that night, the summit has glowed with a brilliant, silver hue, acting as a beacon for all who wander beneath the night sky. Ellie the elephant, who studies the history of these lands, suggests that this myth was created to explain the unique quartz deposits found there. Whether a story of giants or a geological curiosity, the Silver Peak remains a symbol of hope, reminding us that even the darkest paths can be illuminated by a flicker of brilliance.

Word bank: mythical · legendary · sovereign · treacherous · eternal · ancient · phenomenon

1. What did the Guardian of the Glade hope to achieve by catching the moon's reflection? (2 marks)

2. According to the passage, what physical change happened to the mountain after the vessel shattered? (2 marks)

3. Why might the author have included Ellie's perspective about the quartz deposits? (3 marks)

4. Explain why the author describes the Silver Peak as a 'symbol of hope'. (3 marks)

5. Do you think myths are a useful way to explain the world? Justify your answer using examples from the text or your own knowledge. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene depicting the Silver Peak at night, showing the 'shimmering dust' mentioned in the legend and the vast, mist-covered valleys below.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the mythological explanation of the mountain with a scientific explanation. Write a short paragraph explaining why ancient civilisations relied on stories to understand natural phenomena.