

Year 5 English: Mastering Myths and Legends

Learning objective: To identify, define, and evaluate the key characteristics of myths and legends, applying critical thinking to traditional storytelling structures.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of mythical and legendary terminology. For the 'Greater Depth' questions, consider how these elements influence the reader's perspective.

What is a Myth?

A traditional story, often involving supernatural beings or events, used to explain natural phenomena or the origins of the world.

What is the definition of a Legend?

A story from the past that is believed to be based on real people or historical events, though it is often exaggerated over time.

Explain the term 'Hubris' in the context of Greek or Norse myths.

Excessive pride or dangerous overconfidence, often leading to a character's downfall in a story.

What is an 'Oral Tradition'?

The process of passing down stories, history, and cultural knowledge from generation to generation by word of mouth rather than writing.

Define 'Supernatural' as it relates to narrative structure.

Events or beings that cannot be explained by science or nature, often featuring magic, gods, or mythical creatures.

What is a 'Quest' in the hero's journey?

A long or arduous search for something, usually involving the protagonist overcoming significant obstacles to achieve a goal.

Justify why many myths contain a 'Moral'.

Myths were often used to teach cultural values, acceptable behaviour, or societal consequences by illustrating the results of good or bad choices.

Compare and contrast: How does a myth differ from a legend?

Myths explain the 'why' of the natural world (e.g., why the seasons change), whereas legends are grounded in human history and focus on specific figures or events.

What might happen if a storyteller ignores the 'Oral Tradition'?

The cultural nuances, specific vocabulary, and the original intended message of the story might be lost, permanently altering the historical record.

Explain the role of an 'Archetype' in storytelling.

A typical character, action, or situation that represents universal patterns of human nature, such as the 'wise mentor' or the 'reluctant hero'.