

Legends of the Whispering Peaks: A Myth-Making Challenge

Learning objective: To analyse the structural features of myths and legends and compose an original narrative using descriptive language and figurative devices.

Read the excerpt below regarding the mythical origin of the Whispering Peaks. Analyse the language used to establish a legendary tone, then complete the questions to demonstrate your understanding of narrative structure and vocabulary.

Long before the first maps were drawn, when the stars hung low enough to touch the jagged horizon, the Whispering Peaks were born. Legend tells of a celestial giant named Oryn, whose laughter was said to be the rumble of distant thunder. Oryn carried a satchel of stardust, which he scattered across the valleys to guide lost travellers home. However, a formidable shadow creature, known only as the Night-Drifter, sought to steal the light. In a battle that shook the very foundations of the earth, Oryn planted his staff into the ground, turning the soil into impenetrable stone mountains. To this day, when the wind whistles through the crevices of the high crags, the locals claim it is Oryn's voice, still guarding the stardust hidden deep within the caves.

Word bank: Ethereal · Formidable · Celestial · Chronicle · Supernatural · Ancient · Echo · Majestic

1. Identify two pieces of evidence from the text that classify this story as a myth rather than a historical account. Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

2. The author describes Oryn as having a 'formidable' opponent. Using the context of the passage, define what 'formidable' means and justify why the Night-Drifter is described this way. (2 marks)

3. How does the author use the personification of the wind to maintain the legendary tone of the story? Provide a direct quote to support your answer. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the roles of Oryn and the Night-Drifter. What moral lesson might a society attempt to teach through this specific myth? (3 marks)

5. If Oryn were to return to the peaks today, what might happen if the Night-Drifter discovered the stardust was still hidden? Predict the outcome using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Illustrate a scene depicting the moment Oryn plants his staff into the earth. Incorporate elements of stardust and the shifting landscape to show the transformation from soil to stone.



Extension challenge: Write a short prologue (150 words) for a new legend involving a character who discovers a piece of Oryn's stardust in a modern-day setting. How does the discovery change their perception of the world around them? Use at least four words from the word bank in your response.