

Crafting Your Own Mythic Legend

Learning objective: To structure a narrative using the conventions of myths and legends, incorporating descriptive vocabulary and a clear plot structure.

Follow this scaffold to build your own legendary tale. Think about how your hero or heroine faces a trial, meets a mythical creature, and explains a natural phenomenon (like why the sun sets or how the mountains were formed).

Long ago, when the world was still soft as damp clay, the great mountain peaks were not jagged stone but smooth, rolling hills that hummed with a secret melody.

Word bank: In the ancient days of yore · Beyond the mist-shrouded horizon · Suddenly, a formidable challenge emerged · With heroic determination · Consequently · As a result of this legend · Beneath the celestial glow · Remarkably · In the blink of an eye

1. The Introduction: Describe the setting and introduce your hero. How can you use atmosphere to make the reader feel like they are in a different time? Start with: 'In the time before time, lived a brave soul named...' (2 marks)

2. The Inciting Incident: What is the 'call to adventure' or the problem your hero must solve? Explain why this task is crucial for their community. Start with: 'The harmony of the land was threatened when...' (3 marks)

3. The Journey and Trial: Describe the obstacles your hero faces. Compare and contrast the hero's initial fear with their eventual bravery. Start with: 'Venturing into the unknown, the hero encountered...' (3 marks)

4. The Climax: Justify the hero's actions in the most intense moment of the story. How do they use their unique strength to overcome the antagonist or the obstacle? Start with: 'With a final, courageous effort...' (3 marks)

5. The Explanation: All myths explain a truth about the world. What natural phenomenon does your story explain? Explain why this change is permanent. Start with: 'To this very day, the world remembers this, for...' (2 marks)

6. Critical Reflection: What might happen if your hero had failed their task? How would the world be different today? Use evidence from your story to support your reasoning. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Mythical Bestiary' entry for your creature. Include a scientific description, its diet, and a special power. Justify why this creature is essential to the balance of your mythical world.