Exploring the World of Myths and Legends

Learning objective: To identify the key features of myths and legends and apply these features to create original narrative ideas.

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of traditional tales to provide detailed, creative responses.

Myths and legends are traditional stories passed down through generations. Myths often explain natural phenomena or the origins of the world, featuring gods and supernatural beings. Legends are based on historical events or figures but often include exaggerated, heroic deeds. Both genres use rich vocabulary and imaginative settings to teach lessons about human nature and the world around us.

Word bank: supernatural · heroic · quest · origin · mythical creature · moral · legendary · anthropomorphism

1. What is the primary difference between a 'myth' and a 'legend'? Use an example of a natural phenomenon a myth might explain. (2 marks)

2. Pip the bookworm is collecting adjectives to describe a mythical creature. List three adventurous adjectives you would use to describe a hero setting off on a quest. (2 marks)

3. Max the monkey has found a plot hole in a story! If a legend is based on a real historical event, why might the story change as it is told over hundreds of years? (2 marks)

4. Identify one common 'motif' or recurring feature found in myths (e.g., a magical object, a forbidden task, or a transformation) and explain why it makes a story more exciting for the reader. (2 marks)

5. Imagine you are writing a legend about a mysterious, hidden valley. Write two sentences that use personification to describe the wind and the trees in this setting. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw your own original mythical creature that might appear in a new legend. Include at least three distinct features, such as wings, scales, or glowing markings, and label them.

Extension challenge: Write a 150-word opening paragraph for a brand new myth that explains why the moon changes shape each month. Use at least three words from the word bank.