

Y5 Myths Legends Wider Reading

KS2 Y5 English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Is this a myth or a legend? 'A goddess's sadness when her daughter goes underground makes the plants die each year.'

Step 1 · Does it involve gods or magic?

Yes, a goddess

Step 2 · Does it explain something in nature?

Yes: why plants die in winter

Answer: It is a myth.

Check: This is the Greek myth of Demeter and Persephone.

2. Now try one with the steps

Find the conventions in this traditional tale opening: 'Long ago, a king had three daughters. The youngest was the kindest of all.'

Step 1 · Opening phrase

Step 2 · Pattern of three

Step 3 · Good character

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What is a myth?

2. What is a legend?

3. What does a fable always have?

4. How were folk tales first passed on?

5. Name one common feature of traditional tales.

6. Is King Arthur a myth, a legend or a fable?

7. What is a trickster character?

8. What does 'literary heritage' mean?

9. Why do you think many cultures have similar stories, such as tricksters?

10. A myth explains why the sun rises. Why might ancient people have told this story?

11. Name two things a good book recommendation should include.

12. Improve this recommendation: 'It's a good book. Read it.'

13. Why should a recommendation avoid spoilers?

14. Choose a myth, legend or traditional tale you know. Name its hero and the problem they face.

4. Before you hand it in

Calling every old story a 'fairy tale'

Ask: does it explain nature (myth), follow a possibly real hero (legend) or teach a moral (fable)?

Only reading one kind of book

Try a myth, a classic and a book from another culture this term.

Recommendations that just say 'it was good'

Give a specific reason and an example from the book.

Retelling the whole story, including the ending

Give a short taste of the story and stop before the big twist.