

MYTHS and LEGENDS

Close readers compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics and patterns of events in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.

WHAT DO I KNOW ABOUT MYTHS?

- Answer serious questions about how important things began and occurred.
 - Stories that explain natural occurrences and express beliefs of right and wrong.
 - To explain the creation of the world.
 - To teach people moral lessons.
- The gods/goddesses and heroes are superhuman in nature, and sometimes appear in disguised form.
- Human emotions are experienced by the gods.
- Magic is often present in myths.
- A metamorphosis may occur (transformation/change)

WHAT DO I KNOW ABOUT LEGENDS?

- Stories are usually about a person or place
- Person may be real or based on a real person
 - Rooted in oral tradition but embellished through the generation
 - Told as if it were a historical event
 - Evidence of the existence of actual figure in an actual point of time in the past
- Legends are subsets of folktales

MAJOR TOPICS IN MYTHS & LEGENDS

Heroism	Love
Fate	Sacrifice
Generosity	Faith

