

Myths and Legends

A myth is a traditional, ancient story that is fictional. Myths were often written to explain natural phenomena and quite often involved gods and fantasy creatures.

A legend is a story which takes place within human history. Legends are widely believed to be rooted in the truth, but will have evolved over time and taken on fictional elements.

Fantasy Story Writing Checklist

We can use the fantasy checklist to help us write a myth or legend.

Checklist for Key Stage 1

Did I include...

a mysterious setting of an imaginary place?

a main character who has a problem?

a resolution where the character's problem is solved?

fantastical characters and magic?

a happy ending?

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Checklist for Key Stage 2

Did I include...

a portal between a real and an imagined place?

a main character(s) going on a quest or search?

magical, peculiar, and sometimes menacing characters and creatures?

a descriptive setting with expanded noun phrases?

a build-up to hint at a dilemma?

a dilemma where my main character(s) has a problem?

a resolution where the dilemma is resolved?

a mysterious ending?

An example of a myth

Thor, the God of Thunder, came running into the village. “I’ve lost my mighty hammer!” he shouted. Thor’s hammer was magic. It could kill an army with one blow! It could bring peace to the world!

Thor’s father, Odin, the King of the Gods cried, “We must get the hammer back!” Everyone looked for Thor’s hammer – but it was no where to be found.

Suddenly, a servant ran in. “The Frost Giant, Thrym has the hammer!”

“But Thrym is evil! He will never give it back. What shall we do?” screamed Odin.

Thor roared, “I will find Thrym and kill him! I must have my hammer back.”

But Thrym was a very strong giant so Odin told Thor that he should not fight him. They wanted to find out why Thrym had Thor’s hammer. They sent Loki, the God of Mischief, to find Thrym.

Loki found Thrym and said, “Thrym, Odin has sent me to ask you to give his hammer back.”

“Ha, ha, ha! I am not going to give it back!” shouted Thrym. “I want Freya, the Goddess of Love, to be my wife. Give me Freya and I will give Thor his hammer,” shouted Thrym.

Could you use these ideas to write your own myth or legend?

Key Words

Mortal	Hero
Immortal	Heroine
Heavens	Nymphs
Monster	Underworld
Creatures	Beginning of time

Settings

Heavens
Earth
Underworld
Ancient Cities
Another World

