



Assembly Knowledge Organiser—Legends



Key Knowledge

Learn these key facts—key points in red

- Myths, legends, folk-tales and fables are part of the oral tradition of storytelling. They are stories that entertain, explain and teach. They were told long ago, written down later, are found all over the world and enjoyed by young and old.
- The most common theme is the triumph of good over evil.
- Language features—past tense, third person, descriptive detail, time conjunctions, variety of sentence structures, plenty of direct speech.
- Repetitive, patterned language that is easy to remember.

Character types & stories

Characters	Myth	Legend	Folk-tale	Fable
gods & goddesses	✓ e.g. Greek, Roman, Norse or Egyptian gods	✗	✗	✗
kings & queens	✓ e.g. King Minos, Helen of Troy	✓ e.g. King Arthur, Cuchulain	✓ e.g. wicked queens, emperors, princes, maharajahs	✓ e.g. King Midas
heroes & villains	✓ e.g. Hercules, Gilgamesh	✓ e.g. Beowulf, Joan of Arc	✓ e.g. Jack the giant killer, Cinderella	✗
witches & wizards	✓ e.g. Circe	✓ e.g. Merlin	✓ e.g. witch in Hansel & Gretel, Baba Yaga	✗
fairies & 'little people'	✓ e.g. Greek nymphs	✓ e.g. fairyland tales such as Tam Linn	✓ e.g. fairies, pixies, kelpies, leprechauns	✗
monsters, ogres & giants	✓ e.g. Minotaur, Sphinx	✓ e.g. dragons, the Lambton Worm	✓ e.g. Jack & the Beanstalk	✗
talking animals	✓ sometimes, e.g. Fenrir the wolf in Norse myths	✗	✓ e.g. Anansi, little pigs, wolves, bears	✓ e.g. foxes, donkeys, hare, tortoise

Key Vocabulary

Understand these key words

Word	Definition	Questions?
Myth	Based in religions of ancient times Tell of gods and goddesses Often explain 'how' or 'why' things are as they are e.g. creation myths, weather myths.	You may want to research further Two famous writers of fables were: Aesop, 600BC (Greece) La Fontaine, 1600s (France)
Urban Myth	A modern, widespread tale about an amazing event which is told as if it has really happened.	
Legend	Are supposed to be based on fact Often have a grain of truth (exaggerated) Are often about a famous person, creature, place or event May often be told in ballads	
Local Legend	Is fixed to a place or person and often explains a local landmark, event or custom.	
Folk-tales	Usually involve magic. Are set in a timeless land. Often have unnamed characters and places. Often involve 'the power of three'.	
Fables	Are usually about animals that act like humans. Are usually very short. Are meant to teach a lesson. End in a moral.	