

ENGLISH MYTH WRITING TASK

Once you have read the story of the rainbow serpent, can you create your own myth involving a rainbow animal?

Remember all the features of myths! Your myth should contain all the right 'ingredients' to make it effective! Look at the points below to help you.

MYTHS

Purpose

- Provide a fictional explanation for natural phenomena, e.g. how the world was created. They can also pass on cultural, religious or spiritual beliefs and traditions.

Structure

- Set in the past, usually a distant and non-specific past.
- Presented as something that actually happened.
- A plot often based on a long and dangerous journey, a quest or a series of trials for a hero.
- Usually includes incredible or miraculous events, where characters behave in superhuman ways, using unusual powers or with the help of superhuman beings.
- Often longer than other traditional stories, especially in their original form.

Language Features

- Rich vocabulary, e.g. Hercules hurled the glittering spear with all the strength of a mighty army.
- Similes are used to help the reader to imagine, e.g. Thor's hammer was as heavy as a mountain.
- Vivid descriptions of characters and settings.
- Fast-moving narration of action.
- Little dialogue.
- Symbolic meanings.

Remember!

- Make your characters larger than life by giving them supernatural powers or strong characteristics like courage and wisdom.
- Choose a setting that gives a dramatic backdrop for the action, e.g. a sun-baked desert or a mountain shrouded in icy fog.
- Create a negative character who is the opposite of your hero: good and evil, brave and cowardly, strong and weak.
- Include a fantastical beast, e.g. a unicorn or minotaur.

Examples

- Theseus and the Minotaur
- Pandora's Box
- Perseus and Medusa.



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Print off the planning sheet to help you organise your ideas!