

Legends

The difference between a legend and a myth

A **legend** is a story created about a certain person or place. Many legends are created as a way of explaining history. Most legends are based in fiction, which means they are not necessarily true. However, the real magic of a legend exists in the fact that it is a story passed on from generation to generation.

A **myth** is a story with a purpose. It tries to explain the way the world is. Myths also try to explain the relationship between gods and humans. Even though the events in a myth are usually impossible, they try to send a message that has an important social or religious meaning.

So what makes a legend different from a myth?

Myths:

- are rooted in a culture's sacred beliefs.
- take place in a time before recorded time began.
- have deities or semi-deities as the primary characters.
- represent ways that cultures sought to explain the origins of the world and of existence itself.

Legends:

- have fantasy elements, but are set in historical times and places.
- have humans as the main characters, and often humans for whom there exists recorded history!
- Based upon real characters and events
- Richly embellished and exaggerated over time
- Exciting narrative as all events are possible
- Plot has become widely adapted or updated (fictional)
- Usually focuses on an individual character, a cultural hero or heroine or a person respected and remembered and who is brave e.g. Robin Hood
- Legends can be about places e.g. Atlantis, Shangri-La
- Legends can be about animals e.g. Yeti, Loch Ness monster
- There is a difference between honour and dishonour
- Reveal information about the way people lived, what they believed in, who was important to them, what they valued and what they were afraid of.
- Convey meaning about the way we live our lives across cultures and time

The **Arthurian** legends of **Camelot**, tales of **Saint George** and **Saint Patrick**, and **Robin Hood** serve as well-known examples of legends from Great Britain.

Each legend starts by developing characters, stating your location and time, and possibly explaining why you are writing this legend

Marks are awarded as follows: (see below)

1. Character: detailed description, understandable character traits – **5 marks.**
2. Interesting, creative Plot: – **5 marks.**
3. Beginning, End: traditional – **5 marks.**
4. Order: logical – **5 marks.**
5. Interesting details – **5 marks.**
6. Clear moral or lesson – **5 marks.**
7. Writing process – planning, draft, refining, proofreads final draft – **5 marks**
8. Language – punctuation, spelling and grammar – **5 marks**
9. Presentation – typed, neat, clean – **5 marks** (handed in with handwritten draft)

Legends

	5	4	3	2	1
Character	The characters are described with detail and the traits are evident and easily understood to represent key parts of the story.		The characters are described with detail, but the traits are not clearly understood or do not add to the understanding of the story.		The character(s) are listed but not described with detail.
Beginning	There is a traditional beginning which indicates that this is a traditional folk tale or legend.		There is an opening statement, but it does not reflect traditional folk tale or legend format.		No language is used to indicate that the tale or legend is about to begin.
There is logical order to the story	Well ordered sentences (beginning, middle, and end) that keep to the topic. Utilizes several transitions	Sentences keep to the topic, but the order is weak. Utilizes 2 transitions	Some parts do not keep to the topic. Utilizes one transition	Topic and story are confusing for the reader. Lacking transitions	
Details make the legend interesting	Exciting details make the reader "picture" the scene. At least 3 sensory details.	Some details help the reader understand what is going on. 2 sensory details	Not enough details to help the reader understand the story. 1 sensory detail	No details are used.	
Ending	There is a traditional ending which leaves the listener/reader with a clear understanding of the story.		There is some sense of an ending.		No language is used to indicate that the tale or legend is finished.
Narrative format	There is a clear sense of story with transition words to facilitate the understanding of the listener/reader.		There is some sense of story, but the story does not flow clearly from beginning to end.		There is no sense of story.
Story Elements	Story contains all the four story elements (setting, characters, problem, solution)		Story contains some of the four story elements (setting, characters, problem, solution)		Story contains few of the four story elements (setting, characters, problem, solution)
Moral	There is a clear moral or lesson that is easily understood and can be restated by the listener/reader.		There is some reference to a moral or lesson, but it is not easily understood.		There is no reference to a lesson or moral in the tale or legend
Use of writing process	Excellent use of the writing process has produced a refined final draft. Proof reading has eliminated mistakes	Good use of writing process; evidence of progressive improvement in writing piece, mistakes still evident	Has used the writing process but has not translated it into a well-developed piece of writing	Some use of parts of writing process (very basic planning or evidence of editing of first draft) but many errors still remain	Little or no proof reading or editing done: writing still has many uncorrected errors
Language use: punctuation, grammar and spelling	Excellent use of language; correct sentences, punctuation and spelling. No errors in subject-verb. Utilizes complex, compound, and simple sentences. Correct capitalization, end marks	Creative use of language; mostly correct sentences, punctuation and few spelling errors. One or two errors in subject-verb concord. Utilizes simple and compound sentences. Correct capitalization	Most sentences are correct; some errors in language use, punctuation and spelling. Several errors in subject-verb concord. Correct end marks	Sentence structure fair but very basic; several errors in language use, punctuation and spelling. Has not grasped subject-verb concord	Poor sentence structure; many errors in punctuation and spelling. Many errors in subject-verb concord; understanding compromised. Many errors with capitalization and end marks. Primarily simple sentences
Presentation	Typed, neat, clean	Hand-written, neat and clean	Typed, messy	Hand-written, messy	Poorly presented, illegible and dirty

Title
of my Legend

Character

Name:

Words to describe my character:

Who/what is my character:

Heroics done in the story:

Does my character have any special powers?

What happens to my character at the end of the story?

Is my character good or evil?

Events

Problem:

Solution:

Take a walk around the yard (or a nature walk), complete the table to use in writing your Legend:

Place where I walked	Where could I be in history? (Setting)	What did I come across? What <i>events</i> happened?	What could those events be in a legend?

Plan a legend

Beginning

My hero/heroine is called _____

My extraordinary character is _____

This character lives in _____

The problem for my hero/heroine is _____

Middle

Event 1 _____

Event 2 _____

Climax _____

End

The problem is resolved because _____

The conclusion is _____

Create an extraordinary character for a legend

Complete the table below to help you to create an extraordinary character for a legend. Use the information to draw an accurate picture of your character.

Size	Strange Features	Sounds	Actions	Powers
As tall as the tallest tree	One massive eye in the middle of his forehead	Swishing sound of his lightning fast sword.	Last for nine nights without any sleep.	Keep things he carried and the ground around him dry.

Many years ago, even before your great grandmother was a twinkle in her father's eye...

Many ions ago... In Roman times...

In the days of...

At the beginning of time...

There was a time when...

Marvellous Openers for Myths and Legends!

Before the world was formed...

Long, long ago...

You may have heard...

This is a tale... In ages past...

There was a time, long ago, when peacocks were very plain birds...