



Story Styles

Grade 3

Name: _____

Read the passage comparing two types of writing or stories. Then answer the questions about what is the same and what is different.

Think about the PURPOSE of each type of writing — is it to entertain, to inform, to explain, or to inspire?

Myths vs Legends: Ancient Tales and Heroes



Have you ever wondered about the exciting tales people told long, long ago? Many of these stories are either myths or legends. **Both** myths and legends are ancient stories that have been passed down through generations, often by word of mouth, before being written down. They help us understand what was important to people in the past, and they often teach lessons.

Myths are special stories that usually involve gods, goddesses, or other supernatural beings. Their main purpose is to explain things that people didn't understand, **such as** how the world was created, why the seasons change, or what causes thunder. For example, ancient Greek myths tell us about powerful gods like Zeus, who ruled the sky, **while** Norse myths feature gods like Thor, who wielded a mighty hammer.

Unlike myths, legends often focus on human heroes and events that might have some basis in history, even if they've grown larger than life over time. Legends tell tales of brave deeds, great quests, and important figures. For instance, the legend of King Arthur tells of a noble king and his Knights of the Round Table, **and** the legend of Robin Hood describes a skilled archer who helped the poor.

While myths explain the origins of the world and the powers of gods, legends typically highlight human courage and morality. **However, both** types of stories share a common goal: to entertain and to pass on cultural values and beliefs. They are different in their main characters and purposes, **but similarly**, they connect us to the past and spark our imagination.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Which type of story often features gods, goddesses, or supernatural beings?

- (A) Myth (B) Legend (C) Both (D) Neither

(2) Which type of story often focuses on human heroes and events that might have some basis in history?

- (A) Myth (B) Legend (C) Both (D) Neither

(3) "Both myths and legends are ancient stories that have been passed down through generations." Is this a SIMILARITY or a DIFFERENCE?

- (A) Similarity (B) Difference

(4) "Myths explain how the world was created, while legends tell tales of brave human deeds." Is this a SIMILARITY or a DIFFERENCE?

- (A) Similarity (B) Difference

(5) Explain ONE way myths and legends are alike. Use the passage to support your answer.

(6) Which type of writing do you prefer, myths or legends? Use TWO details from the passage to explain why.



