



## Story Styles

Grade 4

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?

### Myth vs Legend: Tales of Old



Long ago, before books were common and science could explain everything, people told stories to understand their world. These stories, passed down from generation to generation, often fall into two main categories: myths and legends. **Both** are ancient tales, but they have different purposes and characters.

Myths are often sacred stories that explain how the world began, why natural events happen, or how gods and goddesses interact with humans. They feature powerful, supernatural beings like Zeus, the king of the Greek gods, or Thor, the Norse god of thunder. Myths often teach important lessons about human nature or the consequences of defying the gods. For example, the Greek myth of Icarus warns against hubris and disobedience.

Legends, **however**, are stories about human or semi-human heroes who may have actually existed or been inspired by real people and events. **Unlike** myths, legends often have a historical basis, even if the details have been greatly exaggerated over time. They celebrate bravery, skill, and cunning, inspiring people with tales of great deeds. Famous legends include King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, the clever trickster Robin Hood, or the American folk hero Johnny Appleseed.

**Both** myths and legends were originally shared orally, spoken aloud around campfires or in village gatherings, before being written down. **Both** types of stories often feature extraordinary characters who face great challenges. **Similarly, both** myths and legends



reflect the values, beliefs, and culture of the people who created them, giving us a window into ancient societies.

The main difference lies in their focus and purpose. Myths aim to explain the unexplainable, often involving divine intervention and the creation of the world, **while** legends aim to preserve the memory of a hero or an important event, even if embellished. When reading myths, an audience might ponder the power of the gods or the mysteries of the universe. When reading legends, readers might be inspired by human courage or cleverness, thinking about what it means to be a hero.

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#### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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- (1) Which type of story often explains how the world was created or why natural events occur?  
 (A) Myth    (B) Legend    (C) Both    (D) Neither
  
- (2) Which type of story usually features human heroes who might have been inspired by real people?  
 (A) Myth    (B) Legend    (C) Both    (D) Neither
  
- (3) "Myths involve gods and goddesses, **while** legends focus on human or semi-human heroes." Is this a SIMILARITY or a DIFFERENCE?  
 (A) Similarity    (B) Difference
  
- (4) "**Both** myths and legends were originally shared orally, spoken aloud around campfires." 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.



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

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