

Myths and Folktales Guided Notes

What Are Myths and Folktales?

The world's oldest _____ passed on from generation to generation.

Background of a Myth

Myths are stories about _____.

They attempt to explain _____ such as:

- A. _____ the world was created,
- B. Why people must _____, and
- C. Why the world is _____.

Types of Myths - Origin Myths

- Probably the _____ told by human beings: _____
 - Explained how things _____.
- “_____”: all peace and happiness in the world
 - Was lost when _____, sickness, and _____ came into the world.

Role of Gods and Goddesses in Origin Myths

- Gods and goddesses are usually always associated with _____.
- Gods often form _____, or pantheons, which are ruled by a father god, a _____, and other family members.
- The gods are often associated with other aspects of life, such as _____, wisdom, love, and _____.
- They may represent concrete forces of _____, such as the wind, the sea, the moon, and _____.

Other Types of Myths: Flood Myths

- _____ are found in almost all cultures
 - People, who have been tempted by _____, are punished by an _____.
- The god destroys almost all _____ in the world except for a _____ and his family.

What does “myth” mean?

The origin of the word “_____” is the Greek word “_____”, or story.

Functions of Myths

1. To explain the _____ and the _____.

2. To explain the human condition:
 - _____ people were created,
 - Why they are _____,
 - Why there is _____ in the world,
 - Why people must _____, and
 - What happens to people _____.
3. To explain natural _____, such as the setting of the sun and phases of the _____.
4. To explain the nature of _____ and how these deities and human beings _____.
5. To explain the meanings behind _____, customs, and beliefs.
6. To explain historical _____ or events.
7. To teach _____.

Background of Folktales

- Stories told by _____ people
- Passed on by _____, discussion, and _____ from generation to generation.
- Used to _____ and _____ moral values.
- Not focused on _____ purposes.

More About Folktales

- Folktales include _____, fables, _____, fairy tales, and ghost stories.
- Folktales are entertaining stories about _____, who
 - Survive by
 - _____,
 - using their own _____, and
 - relying on their own natural _____.

How Folktales Differ from Myths

1. Folktales, unlike myths, are _____, or non-religious.
2. Folktales were created as much for _____ value as for the teaching of social or _____ values.
3. Folktales feature _____ transformations and _____, just like myths.
4. _____ are usually not central characters in the story.
5. Folk heroes tend to be _____, everyday _____ who don't have _____.
 - The heroes of _____ are superhuman offspring of gods or goddesses and _____.

Now, what about fairy tales?