

# Myths and Legends

**Myths:** were created by early civilisations to make sense of things happening in the natural world around them. These traditional stories had no historical basis, and often contained elements of the supernatural or the divine.

**Legend:** a very old story or set of stories from ancient times. These stories are not always true, but often have some historical grounding and focus on a famous person or event.

## Activities

1. Create a small poster that explains what the following key terms mean:

- Tragedy
- Hubris
- Hamartia
- Hero
- Villain
- Archetype.

2. Your poster must include a mixture of words and images.

- Create a bank of adjectives to describe a Greek God of your choice and explain why you have chosen them.

3. Create a description of a mythological setting description. Remember to include □

Similes – a descriptive phrase comparing something to another thing using like or as e.g the dinner was as hot as the sun.

Metaphors – saying something is something else e.g the teacher was a lion, fiercely protective of her cubs.

Adjectives e.g. the minute, delicate hummingbird.

Prepositions – words to describe a position e.g behind, underneath etc. Try using one to start a sentence.

Short sentences for impact.

5 senses e.g. Lily heard a gentle creak... Jamie was overwhelmed by the bitter smell of burning...

4. Summarise the myth of Prometheus

**Challenge:** write a paragraph arguing whether or not you believe Prometheus was right or wrong to give the Mortals fire.

5. In your own words, explain the difference between a myth and a legend.

**Challenge:** find someone at home, or school, who doesn't know the difference and teach them.

## Sentence openers

Above the world,

Many moons ago,

Obviously angry,

Miraculously,

With god-like powers,

Deep below the Earth's  
crust,

Between the sea and sky,

Since time began,

Among the clouds,

In the depths of the  
ocean,

On top of the tallest  
mountain,

In the middle of nowhere

Flying into a jealous rage,

Entranced by its beauty,

Disgusted by the stench,

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### Key themes

#### Greek Gods

**Zeus** Vengeful King of the Gods.  
Father to Hercules, Perseus,  
Athena

**Poseidon**  
God of the seas. Zeus' brother.  
Cursed King Minos with the  
Minotaur

**Hera** -Jealous wife of Zeus.  
Tricked Hercules into killing his  
children

**Hephaestus**  
Blacksmith God. Son of Zeus.  
Crafted Pandora on Zeus's  
command.

**Hades**  
God of the Underworld. Zeus'  
brother. Owner of the hell-  
hound Cerberus.

**Athena**  
Zeus' daughter. Cursed Medusa.  
Friend of Prometheus. Champion  
of Perseus.



Power, Gods, trust v. betrayal, deception



Mortality, murder, prophecies and curses



Battles and quests, bravery and courage,  
coming of age, the supernatural, reason v.  
power, fate, power of man, worship,  
danger of curiosity, excessive pride

#### Key terminology:

Tragedy  
Hamartia  
Hubris  
Archetype  
Hero  
Villain  
Connotation  
Denotation  
Allegory  
Juxtaposition  
Oxymoron  
Setting  
Simile  
Metaphor  
Imagery  
Symbol

#### Key Vocab

Attire  
Appearance  
Betrayal  
Courageous  
Deceptive  
Devotion  
Envious  
Labyrinth  
Malicious  
Oppressive  
Tyrannical  
Valiant  
Vengeful  
Wrath  
Zealous  
Chronicle