

# Myths and Legends

Does your myth or legend include...

a setting in the distant past?	
mortal and immortal characters?	
a brave hero or heroine?	
an explanation for how something started?	
a monster or complex task the hero or heroine has to overcome?	
dialogue to advance the action?	
expanded noun phrases and adverbs to add detail?	

## What Might the Characters Be Like?

boastful, brave, courageous, cursed, demonic, evil, fantastical, fearless, god-like, half-human, humble, immortal, jealous, mighty, monstrous, mythical, proud, ravenous, strong, superhuman, unusual, valiant, venomous, weak

## What Might the Setting Be Like?

ancient, antiquated, destroyed, dilapidated, enchanted, expansive, forgotten, heavenly, legendary, magical, marvelous, mysterious, mystical, otherworldly, ruined, sinister, terrifying, unearthly, vibrant

## Word Bank

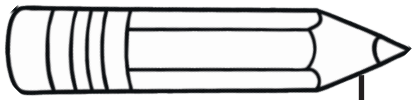
accidental	disappear	heroine	nymph
angel	dragon	imagine	old world
appear	Earth	immortal	particular
believe	famous	island	promise
creatures	gods	kingdom	special
deity	heaven	monster	surprise
demon	hero	mortal	underworld

## Adverbs

bravely, cowardly, fearfully, gallantly, gruesomely, honourably, horribly, menacingly, nastily, nobly, quietly, stealthily, strangely, unselfishly, viciously, weirdly

## 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,  
 As swift as an eagle,  
 Like a polished jewel,  
 Dancing among the stars,



## Examples of Key Features

a setting in the distant past

mortal and immortal characters

a hero or heroine

an explanation for how something started

a monster or complex task the hero or heroine has to overcome

dialogue to advance the action

expanded noun phrases and adverbs to add detail

# Myths and Legends

## An excerpt from Theseus and the Minotaur

Long ago, King Minos was the ill-natured ruler of the island of Crete. He relished frequently launching surprise attacks on the grand city of Athens. King Aegeus of Athens desperately wanted to stop the attacks so he struck a terrible bargain with Minos. In exchange for peace, Aegeus would annually send over seven girls and seven boys to be sacrificed to King Minos's horrific Minotaur: a half-man, half-bull beast.

After three years, Aegeus's son called Theseus was fed up. Mentally, he went over his plan as he knocked on the door of his father's study. Before Aegeus could even stand up to meet his son, Theseus had started talking, "This deal with Minos needs to stop. Families are terrified that their children will be picked next. Tomorrow, I am going to take the place of one of the boys on the ship. Then, I will vanquish the Minotaur and end this horrible agreement."

Aegeus was shocked. He knew that his son was strong and brave but the Minotaur was so huge and fierce. To keep it under control, it had to be locked inside a complex maze called a labyrinth. Aegeus begged Theseus to change his mind but eventually, he agreed to let him go.

The next day, when the boat docked, Minos led the children away. His daughter called Ariadne stealthily pulled Theseus to one side and told him that she recognised him as the prince. She explained that she wanted to escape from her father and offered to help Theseus if he promised to take her away from Crete. Theseus agreed and the two met outside the enormous labyrinth's entrance that night. In the dark, Ariadne gave Theseus a red ball of string, "This labyrinth has been designed to be so complicated that no one can ever escape it. However, if you unravel this string behind you, you will be able to use it to find the entrance again. Good luck!"

