

MYTHS AND LEGENDS – KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

The Eye of the Cyclops

Odysseus and his men are captured by Polyphemus and held in his cave, they are eaten one by one – for breakfast and dinner. Odysseus has a plan to escape. Luckily his men brought supplies they can use to fool the stupid one-eyed beast, they give Polyphemus a poke in the eye with a sharp stick.

Prometheus and the Fire

Fed-up with living on Mount Olympus with the Gods, Prometheus goes to live amongst the people. He feels that their lives would be so much better if they only had fire, a privilege only afforded to Gods. Zeus refuses; Prometheus takes matters into his own hands and is punished for his defiance.

Pandora's Box

Pandora is married to Epimetheus who forbids his wife to open the old wooden chest in the corner of the room. Pandora is unable to resist and releases all sorts of evils into the world. Slamming the lid down she despairs, until a tiny voice is heard "Help! Let me out!". It is Hope...

Daedalus and Icarus

A life of luxury on Crete is too much for Daedalus, employed and held against his will by King Minos. After building a huge labyrinth and palace for the mean king, Daedalus invents a way off the island – wings for his son Icarus and himself to fly away. They have to remember not to fly too high.

Perseus and the Minotaur

Asterion the Minotaur is imprisoned by King Minos in a huge, intricate, underground labyrinth expertly designed and built by Daedalus. Every nine years it is fed on 14 young Athenians. Perseus volunteers to go as part of the sacrifice with a promise to kill the beast and end the bloodshed.

King Midas

The King-who-has-everything is given a wish, he doesn't need anything at all but nonetheless wishes that everything he touches turns to gold. He soon realises however as his daughter runs towards him that our desires can sometimes get the better of us.

Hercules

Hercules, son of Zeus is half-man, half-god. Out of jealousy Zeus' wife Hera desperately tries to murder the child who is sent away to live with the mortals. After series of unfortunate events Hercules is disbelieved when he tries to atone for his behaviour and prove his worth he is given a series of 12 tasks, each designed to be impossible.

Thor's hammer

Loki the trickster is sent away, rather than being killed, for his mischief which angers Thor. While away he convinces the magical and industrious dwarves of Svartlfheim to produce wonderful gifts he can present to Thor and his wife Sif, including a very special hammer.

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Odin's dilemma

The immensely wise god is desperate to increase his wisdom and knowledge; he visits Mimir, the guardian of the well of Urd for a drink of its magical waters. Mimir demands that Odin pay the price for such wisdom. Odin is then left to make a very difficult decision – greater wisdom for the benefit of all for the price of an eye.

Robin Hood

Robin lives in and around Sherwood forest where the Sherrif of Nottingham is desperate to catch and punish him for stealing from the rich to give to the poor.

St George

Britain's patron saint volunteers to help save the people from the terrors of a venomous dragon.

The Legend of Gelert

Prince Llewellyn goes hunting leaving his most trusted companion, his dog Gelert to look after his beautiful baby boy. When the Prince returns he finds the baby's room has been destroyed and there is blood everywhere. The baby has disappeared and Gelert appears covered in blood. The Prince is heartbroken and feels that he has no alternative than to punish his faithful hound.

The Loch Ness Monster

A strange creature is thought to have been seen swimming in a Scottish loch. Newspapers even print a photograph. Everyone – the locals, police and 'experts' are mystified. A search is conducted ... and continues.

Beowulf

The oldest text believed to have been produced in English, an epic poem that describe the heroic acts of a warrior King, Beowulf in Anglo Saxon times.

The Legend of Thunder Oak

A Scandinavian tale from the frozen north where the heathens worship the god Thor. They gather around a mighty oak and are horrified when Saint Winifred produces his sword and fells their sacred tree.

GOMASSIVE

G – group of three

O – onomatopoeia

M – metaphor

A – alliteration

S – simile

S – senses

I – imagery

V – varied vocabulary

E – emotive language