

Mythologies and folktales

Mythologies share the same elements

- Mythologies, national epics, holy scriptures and folk tales give explanations to existential questions that interest the human mind.
- With your partner, think of themes that reoccur in the above mentioned literature.

Mythologies share the same elements

- Question of faith – “cannot” be proven right or wrong
- Myths usually include a lesson, they teach us something about the world

Creation myths:

- the world
- weather, natural phenomena
- seasons
- human beings, animals
- How do humans/animals reproduce

Heroic stories:

- Hercules, Joukahainen

Mythical creatures:

- Minotaur, Loch Ness, the Yeti

The supernatural:

- God/gods, a supreme being
- Magical elements, sacred objects

The existential:

- What is death
- What comes after death
- Apocalyptic end of the world -stories
- What is good and evil
- Why do good and evil exist
- Why is there illness
- How can you be cured from an illness

Creation myths

- Out of nothingness (Christianity, God creating the Earth)
- From chaos into order (Greek mythology: Gaia, the Earth mother emerges out of chaos and gives birth to the Titans)
- An egg (Kalevala, sotkan muna)
- A union between “world parents”, (e.g. the sky and the earth) was broken -> creation, e.g. in Norse mythology Ymir gives birth to the first man and woman out of his (!!) armpits
- Metamorphosis/emergence out of a creature, e.g. spider
- “Earth diver” -> a supreme being sends a creature to fetch a piece of earth/mud/sand from the sea -> creation (Japanese creation myth about siblings who fish a piece of land out of a primal sea)

Write...

- A creation of the world -story
- A folktale (e.g. “how the zebra got its stripes” or “how cats started meowing” or “how KuLu became pink)
- A story of a hero doing a heroic deed
- A story of a mythical creature (e.g. a centaur, Sirens = seireenit or an orc)
- A story about the supernatural or a story explaining a natural phenomenon through the supernatural (e.g. thunder/northern lights/ruska was born)
- A story explaining the existential (what is death, why is there evil in the world, Covid-19 came into the world because...)
- If you want to, write a myth about one of the pictures on the Pedanet-site.