

Sample Lesson Plan for Myths Year 3 English

Week 1: Lesson No: 1

Learning Objectives: To gain experience of myths as a text type. Use experience as readers to identify the different sections of the narrative e.g. setting, character and plot overview. State a personal preference/response to the text.

Resources: Character, setting and events

- Story link: <http://myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends/story563-theseus-and-the-minotaur.html>
- Theseus Setting Character Events PowerPoint presentation
- Initial responses prompt for Theseus and the Minotaur myth document (optional)
- Myth characters/setting/events template document (optional)
- Useful background reading (optional): <http://myths.e2bn.org/teachers/info311-what-are-myths-legends-and-folktales.html>
- Pupil whiteboards/pens (individual/one between two)

Differentiation: Tasks for this lesson are differentiated by outcome. Children who would benefit from repetition or pre-reading of the story can also access the text from the Myths and Legends site. You could post unit links on your learning platform/during guided reading. A printable version of the text is available to provide individual copies of the story, large print copies/copies printed on different colours etc. The IWB template can be printed to provide a working copy for groups or individuals.

Key Teaching Points:

1) What is a myth?

A myth is a story based on tradition or legend, which has a deep symbolic meaning. A myth 'conveys a truth' to those who tell it and hear it, rather than necessarily recording a true event. Theseus has elements of legend, a real place and person but also a mythical beast and a quest, common in myths. Myths are often used to explain universal and local beginnings and involve supernatural beings or creatures. The great power of the meaning of these stories, to the culture in which they developed, is a major reason why they survive as long as they do - sometimes for thousands of years.

2) Revise the concepts of setting, character and plot.

Teacher Activity:

Introduction:

Open Theseus and the Monotaur.ppt

Idea for introduction: This is a very old story first written down by Greek and Roman writers, but the myth is probably much older than that. Stories like this were passed on over generations by word of mouth. In this myth, Theseus sets off to find out what has happened to the young men and women sent to Knossos as tribute (payment), as none of them ever returned.

Watch the audio version of the myth from story link on slide 2

Main Activity: 1) Use talking partners to discuss the pupil's first impressions of the story and to identify the different aspects of the narrative. Use the following prompts on Slide 3 to guide pupils.

Was the story interesting? Why/ why not? Who were the main characters? How do you know? What places was the myth set in? What happened in the myth? Can you think of two events to describe?

Set a time limit to keep the discussion focused

2) Feedback the points discussed onto template covering settings/characters/events from the myth. Model adding the comments into the correct headings on Slide 4. Encourage pupils to contribute their ideas. Save the finished template for future sessions.

Plenary: Discuss how in some myths the hero/heroine is involved in an adventure that requires them to overcome a monster. In others, the hero or heroine is forced to go on a quest to retrieve an object to solve a problem in their homeland. Explain that the class is going to concentrate on the myth Theseus and the Minotaur. What problem did he have to overcome? What places did his journey take him to?

Extension: Explore other myths from Myths and Legends, start with the Daedalus and Icarus myth and compare the ideas. What was the problem they had to overcome? How did they try and solve it? What happened?

Daedalus and Icarus story link: <http://myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends/story1598-daedalus-and-icarus.html>