

SMART™ Lesson

Comparing and Contrasting Folktales, Myths, and Legends

In literature, folktales, myths, and legends are three types of stories that have been told and retold for many years. While they may have similar themes and motifs, there are some key differences between these types of stories.

Folktales

A folktale is a story that is passed down orally from generation to generation. These stories are usually set in a specific time and place and feature ordinary people as the main characters. Folktales often have a moral lesson or message and include supernatural elements such as talking animals or magical creatures. Examples of folktales include "Cinderella" and "Little Red Riding Hood."

Myths

A myth is a story that explains the origins of the world and how things came to be. Myths often feature gods and goddesses as the main characters and are set in a time before recorded history. Myths may also explain natural phenomena such as the changing of the seasons or the creation of humans. Examples of myths include "The Odyssey" and "The Creation Story."

Legends

A legend is a story that is based on a historical figure or event but has been embellished or exaggerated over time. Legends often include heroic deeds and larger-than-life characters. They may take place in a specific time and place or be based on a real person who lived long ago. Examples of legends include "King Arthur" and "Robin Hood."

Comparing and Contrasting

While there are clear differences between folktales, myths, and legends, there are also some similarities. For example, all three types of stories often have a moral lesson or message. They may also feature supernatural elements or larger-than-life characters. However, each type of story has its own unique characteristics that set it apart from the others.

Questions:

1. What is a folktale?

2. What is a myth?
3. What is a legend?
4. What are some similarities between folktales, myths, and legends?
5. What are some differences between folktales, myths, and legends?

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Comparing and Contrasting Stories

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