

Epic Myths K-5

Objective: Students will explore the myths and stories of distant cultures to learn about shared cultural traits, and practice the process of scene creation through storyboards.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion:

Epic: a story about a hero or about exciting events or adventures.

Myths: a traditional story, especially one concerning the early history of a people or explaining some natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events

Storyboards: a set of sequential drawings to tell a story.

Materials: copy paper, pencil, colored pencils.

Opening activity: What is a myth? Ask members if they have ever heard a myth- share an example of a modern myth (broken mirrors mean 7 years of bad luck, finding a four leaf clover brings good luck, there's a pot of gold at the end of every rainbow, etc). Share with them that myths are just stories, often interesting but rarely true. Myths are one way a culture can share important lessons, and nurture a sense and respect for the natural world. Share with students a variety of different myths from around the world. Tell students they need to LISTEN CAREFULLY, they'll choose 1 myth to recreate in storyboards. A PLAYLIST of MYTHS from around the world:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIcmE8fK0EjW2AVwcSc4NvGyJJaw7bzh>

Core Activity: Distribute copy paper, pencils, colored pencils. You can continue to play myths in the background as students create their storyboards. Student storyboards can be based on the myths they heard OR they can MAKE UP THEIR OWN MYTH and tell that story through storyboards. Instruct students to fold their paper in half to create a LONG crease down the paper. Open it up, turn the paper sideways and retrace the creased line with pencil. Then, create 3 lines equally spaced so the paper has 6 boxes, 3 on top and 3 on bottom (you can also photocopy and distribute the attached template). Starting on top, have students create a small number counting 1, 2, 3, in one corner of each box from left to right; bottom boxes get 4, 5, 6. Then, instruct students to think of their EPIC MYTH story in 6 parts, a BEGINNING (box 1), an ENDING (box 6) and the story that connects the dots between start and end. They are going to introduce their characters in box 1 and share what happens to them in boxes 2, 3, 4 & 5, with box 6 being the end of the story. Members can illustrate the story and also share the character's names, they might also write out the narrative of the story below the boxes.

Reflection: One at a time, have students come up and share their Epic Myth storyboard. Ask them questions like: where does this story take place? Who are the important characters in this story? What is an important lesson the characters learn?


