Unit 2: Myths, Legends, and Family Stories

Content Area: **Gifted and Talented**
Course(s): **Gifted and Talented**
Time Period: **Week 15**
Length: **14 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

During the course of this unit, students will explore the function of stories in communication. They will examine stories both from a personal perspective, including their own families' stories and heritage, and from a historical perspective, in which they will explore the function of myths and legends throughout history.

Standards

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2	Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3	Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.6	Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.7	Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting).
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3.a	Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3.b	Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3.c	Use temporal words and phrases to signal event order.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3.d	Provide a sense of closure.

Essential Questions

- Why do cultures create myths?
- How do legends tell one about history?
- How do family stories help bring families together?

Application of Knowledge and Skills...

Students will know that...

- a legend is a story based on historical persons, places, or things, and may contain some supernatural elements.
- a myth is a story using gods or heroes in order to explain some sort of natural phenomenon or belief.
- families use oral storytelling to pass down information about people, traditions, and beliefs.

Students will be able to...

- compare and contrast myths and legends
- compose a written account of family stories
- identify supernatural or exaggerated elements in myths and legends.

Assessments

- My Family's Stories Summative: Personal Project Students interview members of their family to accumulate different family stories. Students record or retell their family stories in a book format.
- Myth or legend? Formative: Suggested Instructional/Assessment Strategies Read aloud a myth or legend. Have students explain in writing if it is a myth or legend and explain why.
- Why is this a myth? Diagnostic: Self Assessment Read a myth with the students. Have them determine if the story is true and which elements make it untrue. Students identify characteristics of a myth.
- Write your own myth Formative: Other written assessments Using their knowledge of the elements and purpose of a myth, brainstorm myth topics. Develop criteria for the assignment, and have students write and illustrate their own myth to explain a phenomenon, such as a rainbow.

Activities

- Define the terms *myth* and *legend*.
- Read examples of Greek myths or myths from other cultures and discuss their purpose.
- Create illustrations for various myth.s
- Write original myths.
- Identify the supernatural elements in myths and legends.
- Compare and contrast myths and legends.
- Read several examples of legends.
- Brainstorm examples of legends from movies, television, or books.
- Discuss the purposes and reasons for myths and legends.

- Interview parents or grandparents about various family stories.
- Create a short book with illustrations or pictures that includes family stories.

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

- Allow students to choose which myths and legends to read to increase interest in the material.
- If students are unable to interview family members for family stories, conduct an alternative assignment on school stories where they interview a teacher or create original family stories for their pets.
- Allow for alternative means of presenting myths and legends, including illustrations and dramatic roles.
- Students may choose to hand write their family story book or to create it digitally.

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Coordinate with the Language Arts teachers on elements of a story, editing, and proofreading

Resources

- Examples of myths from around the world: http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/myths.htm
- American myths and legends: http://americanfolklore.net/folklore/myths-legends/
- Digitally create a book: http://www.mixbook.com/edu

Examples of myths from around the world

American myths and legends