

The language of legends

Legends and fantasy stories and tales of the supernatural use a vocabulary full of unusual creatures and secretive mystery. Used carefully, you can create the atmosphere you need easily.



GETTING STARTED

Match the following words with their definitions.

- | | | | | |
|--------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|
| legend | myth | folklore | fairytale | fable |
| saga | hearsay | epic | parable | allegory |

1. old beliefs and legends _____
2. an old story handed down from the past which may or may not be true _____
3. a short story, usually with animals as characters, intended to convey a moral _____
4. something you have heard from another person or as a rumour _____
5. a story told to teach people something _____
6. an old story containing ideas about ancient times or about supernatural beings _____
7. a long poem or story about heroic deeds or history _____
8. a story in which the character and events represent or symbolize a deeper meaning _____
9. a story about fairies or other supernatural creatures _____
10. a long story with many episodes or adventures _____



MOVING ON

Fantasy books are littered with strange creatures and monsters, many of which come from myths and legends. Sort the words below into three categories: monsters, giants, and little people.

MONSTERS	GIANTS	LITTLE PEOPLE

- | | | | | | |
|------------|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|
| leviathan | yeti | goblin | elf | fairy | colossus |
| mammoth | titan | beast | mutant | ogre | pixie |
| leprechaun | zombie | vampire | dragon | sprite | gnome |

? How many did you get right?

10 = NOVICE

20 = EXPERT

30 = MAESTRO