

Creation Myth Writing Assignment

Creation myths are not just stories where something gets created; they are explanations of how life came to exist, how the world was formed. A myth has been defined as "a story embodying and declaring a pattern of relationship between humanity, other forms of life, and the environment" (R. J. Stewart). As such, myths and creation accounts and stories help to provide a unifying framework for the people who believe, either literally or figuratively, in this shared account. It is not a falsehood or an unscientific lie; rather, it is a poetic and shared vision.

There are a lot of components that go into an interesting myth: the cosmogony (the process of how the world was actually created), the characters involved, how they interact with each other, the environment, where it all takes place, the use of repetition for emphasis and ease of recall, and the use of poetic devices such as alliteration, personification, metaphor and simile, and symbolism. I think we can all admit that some of the myths sound pretty strange and outrageous, but that’s okay. After all, explaining how life is created is not easy.

In this assignment you will be a creator and you will be creating your own myth: a creation myth. Choose from one of the ideas or one of the elements on the chart from below:

* how cats got their tails
* how the sun came into being
* why the moon disappears once a month
* why giraffes have long necks
* why there is dew on the grass in the summer
* why dogs bark instead of chirp
* why penguins can't fly
* why trees grow vertically instead of horizontally
* why people have language and animals do not

**Creation Myth Choices**

**If you think of a creation of earth that is not on here, come talk to me to get your topic approved.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ELEMENTS** |  |  |  |
| Sun | Rivers | Fog | Cypress Trees |
| Stars | Lightning | Night/Day | Clouds |
| The Earth | Hail | Pine Cones | Salt Domes |
| The Moon | Rain  | Wind | Trees  |
| Rainbows | The 4 Seasons | Hurricanes | Potatoes |
| Thunder | Human Beings | Tornadoes | Grass |
| Wind | Forest Fires | Droughts | Coastal Erosion |
| Floods | Glaciers | Tsunamis | Humidity |
| Mud | Mountains | Earthquakes |  |
| Mudslides | Rocks | Moss on Oak Trees |
| Bayous | Volcanoes | Swamps |
| Snow | Avalanches |

You will complete a written and visual section. You may choose to create one of the following for your visual representation:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **One pager**This is a way of creating a piece of writing on a single sheet of paper. Use colored pen, pencils, or markers and fill the entire page neatly. Include:Name of creation (stands out) and author’s name. Be creative. Try to fill up as much of the poster as possible, using individual words, phrases, symbols, and visuals. Be sure to incorporate the following elements into your poster: • The name of your natural phenomenon • The characters (animals/gods/heroes) • The setting of the myth • The main conflict and character choices • The lesson or theme of the myth. There should be at least 3 drawings, symbols, and/or images that represent aspects of the myth. It must be colorful and neat. You can use the organizer on page 80. | **Comic strip**This is where your story is created in panels (provided by teacher). It must be colorful if computer generated. Your story must be in logical sequence (beginning, middle, end). It should be a clear representation of the myth. This might include dialogue. The words included must be legible. You may use Storyboard or any other digital application.  | **Picture book**This is where you break your story up into picture book format. You will **ILLUSTRATE & WRITE** your story on copy paper. Your story must be in logical sequence (beginning, middle, end), have at least 4 sent. on each page and should be approximately 6 to 8 pages without the 2 covers. **---FRONT COVER---** title of the story, author’s name, and a colorful/attractive picture relating to the story **---BACK COVER—**colorful back with a 4 to 5 sentence exciting synopsis (summary) **without telling the ending** |

The myth should meet the following requirements:

• Clean of grammatical and spelling errors

• Contains a variety of sentence structures: simple, compound, complex

• Is original and creative, not a repeat of the myths we have studied in class

• Is organized and does not jump around.