

# MYTHOLOGY:

THE BASICS



## What is a myth?

***A myth is a traditional story that explains the actions of gods or heroes or the origins of the elements of nature. Myths are often of unknown authorship and seek to answer a question.***

## Uses

***Myths are often used to explain the following:***

- **a natural phenomenon (examples include: animals, geographic features, weather events, etc.)**
- **human nature or characteristics**
- **commonly held cultural beliefs**

## Common Features

- **A conflict between two opposing forces**
- **A moral lesson**
- **A struggle for power**
- **Supernatural or non-human characters (this can include gods & goddesses)**
- **A quest or journey**
- **A metamorphosis (a change from one form to another)**

## Structure of a Myth

***A myth is still a narrative or story. In addition to some of the characteristics shown so far, a myth still has the five main elements of a story: plot, characters, conflict, setting, theme. Review plot structure with the diagram below.***

