



The Story of English

Year 7 Unit: Story Origins — Heroes, Greek Myths, Arthur and Beowulf



READING AND WRITING

1. UNIT OVERVIEW



Story Origins: heroes, Greek myths, Arthur, Beowulf



Focus: reading, inference, narrative writing, and understanding how stories are built



Students explore how stories are told, remembered and adapted across time

2. CORE TEXTS

- Greek myths from Stephen Fry's *Mythos / Heroes*
- *Beowulf*
- Arthur stories, including *The Sword in the Stone*
- Key myths studied: Kronos and creation myths; Perseus and Medusa; Theseus and the Minotaur

3. CORE KNOWLEDGE



Character
who a person is and how they are presented



Plot
the sequence of events in a story



Theme
the big ideas or messages in a story



Structure
how a story is organised



Oral tradition
stories passed down by speaking and listening before they were written



Hero
a central character who faces challenges and shows courage



Villain
a character or force that creates conflict or danger

Story building blocks: character, plot, themes, structure

4. SKILLS

- Comprehension
- Inference
- Embedding quotations
- Narrative writing
- Sentence-level description and construction
- Characterisation
- Oracy and discussion

5. WRITER'S CRAFT

- Narrative perspectives: first person, second person, third person
- Voice and vocabulary
- Paragraphing and whole-text structure
- Setting and atmosphere
- Tension
- Planning, editing and feedback

6. OUTCOMES

- ★ Students can explain how characters in studied stories meet hero conventions
- ★ Students can describe and use the conventions of plot, character and structure
- ★ Students can identify and apply the conventions of the oral tradition
- ★ Students can compare heroes, villains and themes across texts
- ★ Students can produce their own narrative writing using the taught conventions

7. WHY IT MATTERS



Stories connect us to the past and help us understand today.



Heroes, myths and legends explore big questions about humans.



Great stories are built with craft and purpose.



Writers learn from the past to create new stories.

BIG IDEAS



Stories shape cultures



Heroes and villains follow patterns



Great stories use clear structure



Oral storytelling came before written texts



Writers borrow and adapt story conventions