

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - Mild  
LO: To understand the features of Myths.

## Mighty Thor and The Magic Hammer - Norse Mythology

One day, Thor, the God of Thunder, came running into the village. "I've lost my mighty hammer!" He shouted. Thor's hammer was magic. It could kill an army with one blow yet also bring peace to the world. Thor's father, Odin, the King of the Gods cried, "We must get the hammer back!" Everyone looked for Thor's hammer – but it was nowhere to be found.

Suddenly, a servant ran in. "The Frost Giant, Thrym, has the hammer!"  
"But Thrym is evil! He will never give it back. What shall we do?" Bellowed Odin.  
Thor roared, "I will find Thrym and kill him! I must have my hammer back." But Thrym was a very strong giant, so Odin told Thor that he should not fight him. They wanted to find out why Thrym had Thor's hammer. They sent Loki, the God of Mischief, to find Thrym.

When Loki found Thrym, he said, "Thrym, Odin has sent me to ask you to give his hammer back."  
"Ha, ha, ha! I am not going to give it back!" Shouted Thrym. "I want Freya, the Goddess of Love, to be my wife. Give me Freya and I will give Thor his hammer."

On his return, Loki told Thor what Thrym wanted. Odin was angry. "Thrym wants our lovely Freya? Never!" But Odin knew he had to do something, so he called for Freya. When Freya heard what Thrym wanted, she cried, "I'd rather die than marry him!"  
Loki had been quietly thinking, but now shouted out, "I have a plan! I have a plan! Thrym wants Freya – so we will give him what he wants!"  
"How can we? She won't go..." Odin said.  
Loki said, "Freya won't go... But Thor could dress up as her!"  
"Who? Me? But I am a God! I can't dress up like a girl!" He shouted, dismayed.  
But, eventually he gave in. Freya came and dressed Thor in a dress and a wig and gave him her special necklace. "Thrym will recognise the necklace." Said Freya. At last, Thor was ready.

When they arrived, Thrym greeted them. "Oh lovely Freya! I did not think you would come!"  
"Well, here she is – now give us the hammer." Said Loki. But Thrym was not a fool. He wanted to talk to Freya first. "Come, let me kiss you." Thrym whispered to Thor. Thor started to move away.  
"No, no, not yet – wait 'til you are married! First you must give us the hammer!" Loki shouted.  
Thrym gave the mighty hammer to Thor. "Now my sweet Freya, you must thank me with a kiss." Thrym said.  
Thor replied quickly, "I will . . . but not with a kiss . . . I AM THE MIGHTY THOR! YOU GAVE ME THE HAMMER AND I WILL GIVE IT STRAIGHT BACK!"  
Thor hit Thrym on the head with his hammer with all his strength.  
"Run !" yelled Loki to Thor.

Thor and Loki ran back to Odin. The hammer was back where it belonged. Thrym had a very sore head. Thor never had to wear a dress again!

## Perseus and Medusa - Greek Mythology

Long, long ago, in Ancient Greece, there lived a vindictive king named Polydectus who was keen to marry the mother of Perseus, Danae. Polydectus knew that Perseus would not allow his mother to marry him so the

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manipulative king sent Perseus away on a quest, not expecting him to return. “Bring me the head of the monster, Medusa,” blasted the King, “and I will not bother your mother again!”

Medusa was a hideous creature. With claw-like hands and tusks for teeth, the monster was the most fearsome in the land. Instead of hair, Medusa had live, venomous snakes that hissed constantly like a tap that had been left on. Her skin had a loathsome, greenish tinge and she had the devil’s eyes. She was also the loneliest and most miserable creature, for anyone who made eye contact with her would instantly be turned to stone.

Knowing that he was facing an impossible mission, Perseus, who normally feared nothing, went to the Temple of Athena to pray for help. The gods heard his prayers and granted him some gifts. These were a razor-sharp sword, a brightly-polished shield and sack for the monster’s head. Perseus – who was now feeling more confident about his quest - set off.

After a long and difficult journey, he eventually arrived at Medusa’s gloomy, death-filled lair. Courageously, he tiptoed up to the entrance and stopped, peering and listening. A wave of terror washed over him. All around him were stone statues of others who had tried and failed to defeat the hideous gorgon. How could he defeat a creature that he could not directly look at? Then an idea came to him! He remembered the gifts from the gods. While using his shield to look at the reflection of Medusa, he swung his sword and, with one clean sweep, cut off her head!

Positioning the head in his sack, Perseus headed to confront the evil king. On his return, a bewildered Polydectus demanded, “Show me the head!” Perseus carefully opened the sack and Polydectus gazed deeply into the Gorgon’s eyes. In an instant, he was turned to stone. Perseus had succeeded in his mission so he and his mother were now safe.

### Features of a myth

Setting		
Hero		
Monster or villain		
Problem		
Journey		
Mythical Object		
Resolution		