

Writing a Myth

The myth "Giants and Mosquitoes" explains how mosquitoes came into being. Write an original creation myth following the writing process. Be sure to include all the elements of a myth: characters, setting, conflict, plot, resolution, and possibly metamorphosis.

Prewriting

Choose something you've wondered about, something that interests you, or something that you think might be enjoyable to write about to use as the basis for your own creation myth. For example, you might want to write about:

- 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 wheels are round
- why penguins can't fly
- why trees grow vertically instead of horizontally
- why people have language and animals do not

In many creation myths, something is created as a solution (either wanted or unwanted) to a problem. Also, the thing that is created is often the result of foolishness on the part of either the creator or itself. (For example, frogs have no tails because of a mistake they made when they tried to deceive the Great Spirit.)

Create a setting, choose characters, and identify the problem. Remember the way in which the problem in your story is resolved should somehow influence the creation idea you are describing. Plan your myth using a story map.

Drafting

Write the draft of your myth.

Revising

Check your draft with a partner. Make sure your story moves clearly from beginning to end with no gaps in thought. Does the way the creation idea comes about make sense? (Remember: a myth can be magical or fantastic, but it still must make sense within the framework of your story.)

Use the checklists and rubrics that you developed in class to make revisions.

Proofreading

Check your story for errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and word usage.