Differences between myths and legends   By Nicole Tsui 5D

Myths and legends are both famous types of short stories. These two types of short stories may look alike but they do have differences
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Legends are stories about real people who are considered heroes and they have been passed down from generations to generations. Myths are stories that explain practices, beliefs and natural phenomena. Their meaning is clearly different.

Legends may be evidence to support past events that actually happened, but myths do not have any supporting evidence for past events. Legend stories are usually facts that are exaggerated. As for myths, they are mostly fictions that are made up of stories about how the world was formed.

Concerning characters in legends, heroes perform good deeds with their strength and intelligence, but it is usually exaggerated. They often give up dreams of happiness to help others. For instance, in the Chinese famous legend story, The Legend of the White Snake, the White Snake gave up being a peri and turned into a woman and started to live with a human. She used her intelligence to give free treatment and medicine to people in need.

In contrast, myths mostly include gods and goddesses who are super humans but have human emotions. For example, the story 'Pandora's Box' shows that gods usually control the world, and describes humans' good and bad behaviour.

The storyline of legends and myths is also different. Legend features an actual cultural hero but includes imaginative elements to exaggerate the story.   Myth is traditional narrative that often involves the gods of ancient culture. Symbolism is an important element of the story.

However, myths and legends are both my favourite types of short stories. These two are really good stories for everyone to read.