**MYTH**

*A myth is a story from the past, which attempts to explain some aspect of nature or of* *morality.*

*Mythology has a larger scope than many other genres. Many cultures consider myths to be a part of their sacred books. A myth is a story from the past that may attempt to tell about creation or morality. A myth often deals with the idea of powerful beings who’s control the world of the humans and beyond. A vast number of myths functioned as forms of early religions. They contain elements of many disciplines (i.e. science, philosophy, history). Myths may be an integral part of social studies curriculum in middle school – Ancient Greece and Rome (grade 6 standards) and Eastern Cultures (grade 7 standards).*

**Folktale**

*A folktale is a story that symbolically presents how humans try to cope with the world.*  *The story is not anchored in a specific time or place.*

*Folktales are fictional tales that symbolically present humans trying to cope with the world. Time and place are not important to the meaning of the story. The story usually has fantasy elements, yet its message is the universal ways humans go about living and solving their issues. The characters may be people or humanized animals who represent royalty or peasants.*

**Legand**

*A legend is a story about a hero (i.e. royalty, religious leader, warrior) related to a specific time and event in history.*

*Legends usually have historical underpinnings. The story is about the past, and its plot involves people, places, and/or events that have a tie to history. The majority of legends deal with a hero of sorts; kings, religious leaders, warriors, and reluctant people called to do great things are often the subject of legends. These tales are tied to specific times and places in history.*