

## Myths and Heroes (*Mythes et héros*)

### 1 Read the definitions carefully.

What definition(s) does your document illustrate?

#### MYTH

1. an ancient story about gods, heroes and magic
2. a. popular belief or tradition embodying the ideals and institutions of a society  
b. an unfounded or false notion
3. a theme or character type embodying an idea

#### HERO

1. a. a mythological or legendary figure often endowed with great strength or ability  
b. a person, admired for his/her achievements, noble qualities and great courage
2. the main character in a literary or dramatic work, an event, period, or movement
3. an object of extreme admiration and devotion: icon / role model

### 2 Brainstorming

Here is a list of questions you can ask yourself about the notion. Read them carefully.

#### a. What category does the hero(ine) in the document you studied belong to? Is he/she...

- a legendary, mythical, medieval, modern, realistic hero(ine)?
- a patriotic and national hero(ine), a champion: pioneer, cowboy...?
- a hero(ine) recognized by society because of his/her abnegation: fireman/firewoman, a member of a rescue team...?
- a defender of common values such as the environment?
- a sportsman/sportswoman who breaks records?
- a fictitious hero(ine): comics (superheroes), cinema...?

#### b. What are the hero(ine)'s qualities?

Does the hero(ine) embody courage, hope, generosity, etc.?

#### c. How are the hero(ine)'s qualities revealed?

#### d. The hero(ine)'s role

- Is he/she a role model?
- What belief / tradition / ideals does he/she embody?
- Is he/she used as a propaganda tool for a political or religious purpose?

#### e. What is an anti-hero?

If the character's behaviour does not correspond to an ideal (he/she is a coward or corrupt for example), he/she can be defined as an anti-hero(ine).

#### f. Which myths does your document remind you of?

Turn to the following website for more information: [www.mythencyclopedia.com](http://www.mythencyclopedia.com)

### 3 Build up your vocabulary

Using a separate sheet of paper, complete this mind map during the year with words referring to the notion.

