

Nombre: _____

1. Read the famous myth below and answer the questions

Orpheus

Once upon a time, hundreds of years ago, there was a king called Orpheus and his queen, Eurydice. They loved each other very much. King Orpheus loved playing the harp and he played it beautifully.

Queen Eurydice loved nature and used to go out into the country every day. One day in spring, she went walking in the fields. After a while she felt tired. She sat down under an apple tree and soon fell asleep. While she was sleeping, the king of the fairies came past and saw her.

The king thought she was beautiful and decided to take her away with him. He took her on his horse to his palace in a beautiful green valley. When king Orpheus heard that his wife had gone, he was very sad. He had loved Eurydice so much... He didn't want to live in the palace which reminded him of his queen, so he left it and went to look for Eurydice. He took only his harp with him. For months and months he searched for Eurydice. His only pleasure was his harp. When he played it, all the birds and animals in the forest would come and listen to the music.

One day, when he was in the woods, he saw the king of the fairies surrounded by a group of people. He followed them until they came to the palace of the king of the fairies.

Orpheus knocked on the door. He said he was a musician and he had come to play for the king of the fairies. He went into the palace and saw lots of people – among them was his wife Eurydice! He tried to speak to her, but she couldn't speak to him and she couldn't go away with him. She needed permission from the king of the fairies.

Orpheus started playing his harp. Everybody in the palace listened. "Your music is so beautiful that I will give you anything you wish," said the fairy king to Orpheus. "Thank you, my lord. I will take my wife Eurydice away with me." The fairy king gave him permission to leave the fairy palace. Immediately, Orpheus took Eurydice back to his kingdom and they both lived happily ever after.

1. Eurydice went out into the country every day because she didn't like the palace. T F

2. Why did the king of the fairies take her away?

3. Why did Orpheus leave his palace?

4. As soon as she saw Orpheus, Eurydice started talking to him. T F

5. How did the king of the fairies react at Orpheus music?

2. Read the following myth about two friends who gave money to the poor and and complete the blanks with ONE word only

This is the story of how Robin Hood met Little John.

_____ upon a time, many years _____ (some time between 1160 and 1450), there was a man called Robin Hood. He was called "the prince of thieves" because he stole money _____ the rich and gave it to the poor. He met his great friend and helper, Little John, _____ a very strange way. Early _____ morning, Robin was walking along a narrow bridge over a river _____ he saw a huge man walking towards him. This was Little John – he was called Little John because he was _____ a big man!

_____ of them wanted to go back, so they fought in the middle of the bridge for three hours. In the end, they _____ fell in the river. They stood up in the water and started laughing at _____ other. After that they were friends for life.

3. Read about this other myth and complete the blanks with a suitable linking word

The first written story of the monster is in a text written in the year 565 AD by a Celtic biographer: this writer describes how a man was attacked by a monster _____ he was swimming in the river Ness. Perhaps the legend already existed in those days: it has certainly existed for many centuries in Scottish folklore.

_____, the story of the monster was not very well-known in England for one simple reason: Loch Ness is a very long way from the rest of Britain. _____ the age of the railway, very few people ever went to the Highlands of Scotland....

The myth became big news in 1930 _____ three men, out in a boat on the lake, said that they had seen a monster. As _____ as the story came out, several other people said that they had seen one, _____. In 1933, a man took the first "photo" of the monster, from a distance of about 100 metres.

A lot of other photos have been taken _____ then, but none of them have been clear. Obviously, _____ there is a monster, it is a shy one! It doesn't often come to the surface, and it never does so near the shore on a sunny afternoon in summer! Up _____ now it has tried to avoid publicity.... if it exists!

In 1987, some people used sonar equipment to try to discover Nessie.... but they found.... nothing. So, _____ no-one has proved that the Loch Ness monster exists, no-one can prove that it does not exist. It's a great story.

4. Go over the modern fairy story below and complete it using the right form of the verbs in brackets. Whenever you see a + add a modal verb.

David Williams, a young schoolboy from Gladstoneberry, _____ (+walk) in the fields every day after school. One day, while he was on his usual walk, he _____ (see) an old man in the river. Immediately he _____ (run) to the river and pulled the old man out. After he _____ (get) his breath back, the old man _____ (say) he _____ (be) a very rich man. He told David that because he _____ (save) his life, he _____ (+ have) anything he wanted. David _____ (laugh). The old man _____ (wear) old clothes. David _____ (+ not believe) he was rich. If he were rich, he _____ (look) different. Besides, he _____ (not want) anything. Then he thought of something. "I _____ (+ like) my dad to have a job," he said. "Right," said the old man. "What _____ (be) your telephone number?"

When David _____ (get) home his dad _____ (look) happier than ever. He smiled and said, "You _____ (not believe) this, son... I _____ (just/ have) a phone call. One of the biggest corporations in the USA _____ (offer) me a job. I'm starting tomorrow!"

5. Now complete the following interview with Donald Peters, a famous storyteller.

Interviewer: Donald Peters, you are a storyteller. That's your job, right? _____
_____?

Donald P: Well, I started as an English teacher because I had studied English at university. Then I became a children's entertainer. But I have been a storyteller for about ten years.

Interviewer: _____?

Donald P: About \$18,000 a year.

Interviewer: _____?

Donald P: I tell my stories at school. I do most of my work in schools.

Interviewer: _____?

LEVEL A5

PAPER 1 / 18

Donald P: They are called “tall stories”. That means stories that can’t possibly be true. Myths. Legends. Stories that are completely unbelievable.

Interviewer: _____?

Donald P: Most of them do. They love being told those types of stories.

Interviewer: Anyway, _____?

Donald P: Definitely! They are my favourite.

Interviewer: And _____?

Donald P: Well, I like the fact that they are magical and they also help preserve our cultural and spiritual heritage, in a way.

Interviewer: _____?

Donald P: Storytellers should be fun to be around, speak well, be well read, and enjoy people.

Interviewer: _____?

Donald P: My grandfather. He would always tell me stories about how things worked, or why things were the way they were. I've tried to emulate him in my storytelling programs.

Interviewer: _____?

Donald P: No, I would still choose my present job. Storytelling is in my heart, my mind, my spirit, my very being... I feel humble and thankful, for this I was created.

6. Composition.

Write about 80 - 120 words on one of the following:

- “We could not believe what had happened.” (last sentence)
OR
- Write about the greatest story you’ve read. Explain why it is so great for you.