

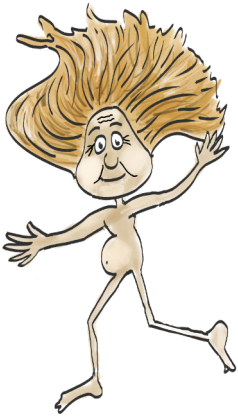
The Lit & Phil Invention Challenge 2026

MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Modern tales for everyday life



CREATURES



The Tale of Yallery Brown

Lincolnshire

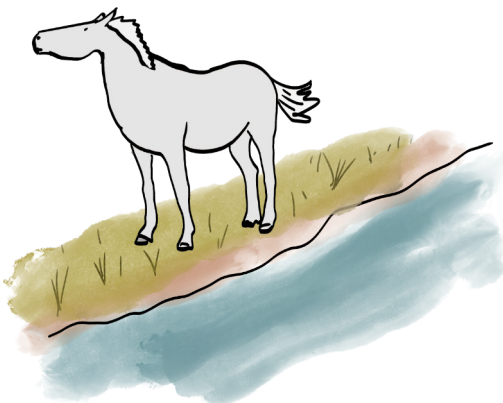
Yallery Brown is a strange creature trapped beneath a stone, crying for help like a baby but with the face of an old man. If you free him he will do all your work for you - provided you never thank him! But beware! To do your chores, he will undo all the hard work of others, creating anger around you.

What mischievous creature or object could you invent to teach people a lesson?

The Lambton Worm

County Durham

When John Lambton was a young unruly child, he fished a strange little creature out of a well and threw it in the river. The Lambton Worm grew into a huge dragon-like serpent so big he coiled 10 times around a nearby hill to sleep. It terrorised villagers for years, until John Lambton finally defeated him wearing a special spiky armour. Sadly, his family was cursed for 9 generations in the process.



The Kelpies

Scotland

The Kelpies are beautiful water creatures, often taking the shape of a horse appearing near the shore. But watch out! If you get too close, they will drag you into the river or lake they guard.

Can you think of a place people shouldn't go? What creature would protect it?

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Long ago, people believed strange creatures, magical places and mysterious inventions existed all around them, hidden in forests, wells, rivers and roads. Some still do... These stories helped our ancestors understand the world around them.

The world has changed a lot since and so we need new myths!

It's up to you to create the next legendary tale for modern life.

What do myths and legends do?

- explain mysterious things
- protect special places
- encourage kindness
- warn people about danger
- punish dishonesty and selfishness
- help communities remember important ideas

What do you think a modern myth should do?

- protect wildlife
- help lonely people
- reduce pollution
- help people tell or find the truth
- protect old buildings
- make people feel welcome

