The language of legends

Legends and fantasy stories and tales of the supernatural use a vocabulary full of unusual creatures and secretive mystery. Used carefully, you can create the atmosphere you need easily.

GETTING STARTED

Match the following words with their definitions.

- legend
- myth
- folklore
- fairytale
- fable
- saga
- hearsay
- epic
- parable
- allegory

1. old beliefs and legends
2. an old story handed down from the past which may or may not be true
3. a short story, usually with animals as characters, intended to convey a moral
4. something you have heard from another person or as a rumour
5. a story told to teach people something
6. an old story containing ideas about ancient times or about supernatural beings
7. a long poem or story about heroic deeds or history
8. a story in which the character and events represent or symbolize a deeper meaning
9. a story about fairies or other supernatural creatures
10. a long story with many episodes or adventures

MOVING ON

Fantasy books are littered with strange creatures and monsters, many of which come from myths and legends. Sort the words below into three categories: monsters, giants, and little people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONSTERS</th>
<th>GIANTS</th>
<th>LITTLE PEOPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>leviathan</td>
<td>yeti</td>
<td>goblin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mammoth</td>
<td>titan</td>
<td>beast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leprechaun</td>
<td>zombie</td>
<td>vampire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How many did you get right?

10 = novice 20 = EXPERT 30 = MAESTRO

You can use your Oxford English Dictionary for Schools, School, and Student’s Dictionaries for these activities.