

MYTHOLOGY UNIT 1 – NINTH GRADE FINAL EXAM
BUSTIN' THE MYTHS
WRITING ASSESSMENT

Name _____

TO THE STUDENT:

In this exercise, you will be helping teachers see how well you are able to express your ideas in writing. Every student will be reading a myth, thinking about it, then talking about it. The reading and talking will help you think about and develop your own ideas. Finally, you will write. Teachers will read and evaluate your writing. Do your best.

PART I: PRE-WRITING ACTIVITIES

SECTION A: READING AND RESPONDING *INDIVIDUALLY*

You will have 30 minutes to work on this part of your test. If you finish early, please sit quietly and wait for further instructions.

BEFORE YOU READ

"Wulbari the Creator" is a myth that comes from the Krachi people of Togo in West Africa. This is an Anansi spider story. Anansi is the trickster hero known by that name throughout West Africa. Under other names, he is still the great trickster all over Africa. The rivalry between the sky god and Anansi is popular in story telling, and the weak (spider) overcoming the strong (sky god) is an endlessly amusing subject.

Think about the creation myths we have studied in class. Remember "The Raven Steals the Light" and "The Archer and the Moon Goddess". Take a minute to jot down some qualities these creation myths had in common.

NOW READ THE SELECTION.

AFTER YOU READ:



1. What do you remember best about "Wulbari the Creator"? Respond to what you read in the space provided below. You can respond by drawing a picture of a scene or a character, making a story map, or writing what this creation story made you think of or remember. If you draw or sketch something, explain what you tried to show.

2. Think about the fact that creation myths should explain how something came to be. In the space below, please list the different natural phenomenon "Wulbari the Creator" is trying to explain.

3. Now think about the tribe you created in class. If you were to tell a NEW creation myth for your tribe, what natural phenomenon would you explain? Organize your ideas about this myth. Fill in the chart below with information about this myth. Remember... your ideas for this myth should be based on what you know about your tribe.

Setting for your myth:

Characters for your myth:

Conflict for your myth:

Rising Action (at least 3 events):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Climax in your myth:

Falling Action (at least 3 events):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Themes/what natural phenomenon your myth explains:



SECTION B: PARTNER/SMALL GROUP WORK

In this section, you will gather into pairs or small groups. You will work together to discuss your ideas and to listen to the ideas of other members of your group. Everyone in your group will participate by sharing their ideas, however it is your responsibility to write all of these ideas on your individual test. You will have 30 minutes for this section of your test. If you finish early, please turn your test over, put your pencil down, and sit quietly.

1. With your partners, take turns sharing something important you remember from the reading selection, "Wulbari the Creator". In the space below take notes on what each group member says.

Name _____
Notes:

Name _____
Notes:

Name _____
Notes:

2. Now write the elements from creation myths, trickster myths, hero myths, and monster myths that were included in the myth, "Wulbari the Creator". Then explain what each of these elements might tell you about the tribe of the Krachi people. In the space provided below list as many as your group can think of.

ELEMENT	WHAT EACH ELEMENT TELLS YOU ABOUT THE TRIBE
Creation Elements	
Monster Elements	
Trickster Elements	
Hero Elements	



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PART II: WRITING ACTIVITY

CREATION MYTH

WRITING SITUATION:

You have had a chance to read and talk about "Wulbari the Creator". Now teachers want to see how well you express your ideas in writing. They want you to write a NEW creation myth. Here is your chance to create your own myth.

Write your own creation myth. It cannot be the same myth you wrote in your groups. Be sure to include the elements of a creation myth that coincide with your tribe. Think about the elements of your monster myth, trickster myth and hero myth. Which elements from each of these myths will you include in your creation myth? How will you help the reader picture your story? Remember to include your FIVE VOCABULARY WORDS so that the reader will have the opportunity to picture your creation myth. Concentrate on descriptive writing. You will have 60 minutes to complete this portion of the exam. Have fun and good luck!

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

1. Make sure you understand the prompt.
2. Spend some time thinking and planning. You may use your notes from any part of the exam. Review your notes and make sure to use them in your myth (both the outline notes and the vocabulary notes). Write your essay on the back of this sheet.
3. Please write neatly with a pen or dark pencil. If I can't read it, you don't get graded!
4. Leave time to proofread your writing. Check punctuation, spelling, and grammar.