

LET'S LEARN ABOUT



LITERATURE

# FABLES, MYTHS, AND LEGENDS

Therese M. Shea



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**LITERATURE**

# FABLES, MYTHS, AND LEGENDS

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# WORDS TO KNOW

**ancient** From a very long time ago.

**chariot** A cart with two wheels that was pulled by horses in ancient times.

**explain** To tell or show the reason for something.

**feature** An important part; to have an important part.

**hare** A fast animal that looks like a rabbit.

**Norsemen** The people of ancient Norway, Sweden, Denmark, or Iceland.

**punish** To make someone suffer for bad actions.

**steady** Continuing over a long time.

**tortoise** A kind of turtle that lives on land.

**values** Important ideas about how we should live and act.

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**Grandparents  
pass on stories to  
their children and  
grandchildren.**





# Telling Tales

Some stories tell us about the beliefs or **values** of people. Fables, myths, and legends are stories like these. They have been passed down over many, many years.

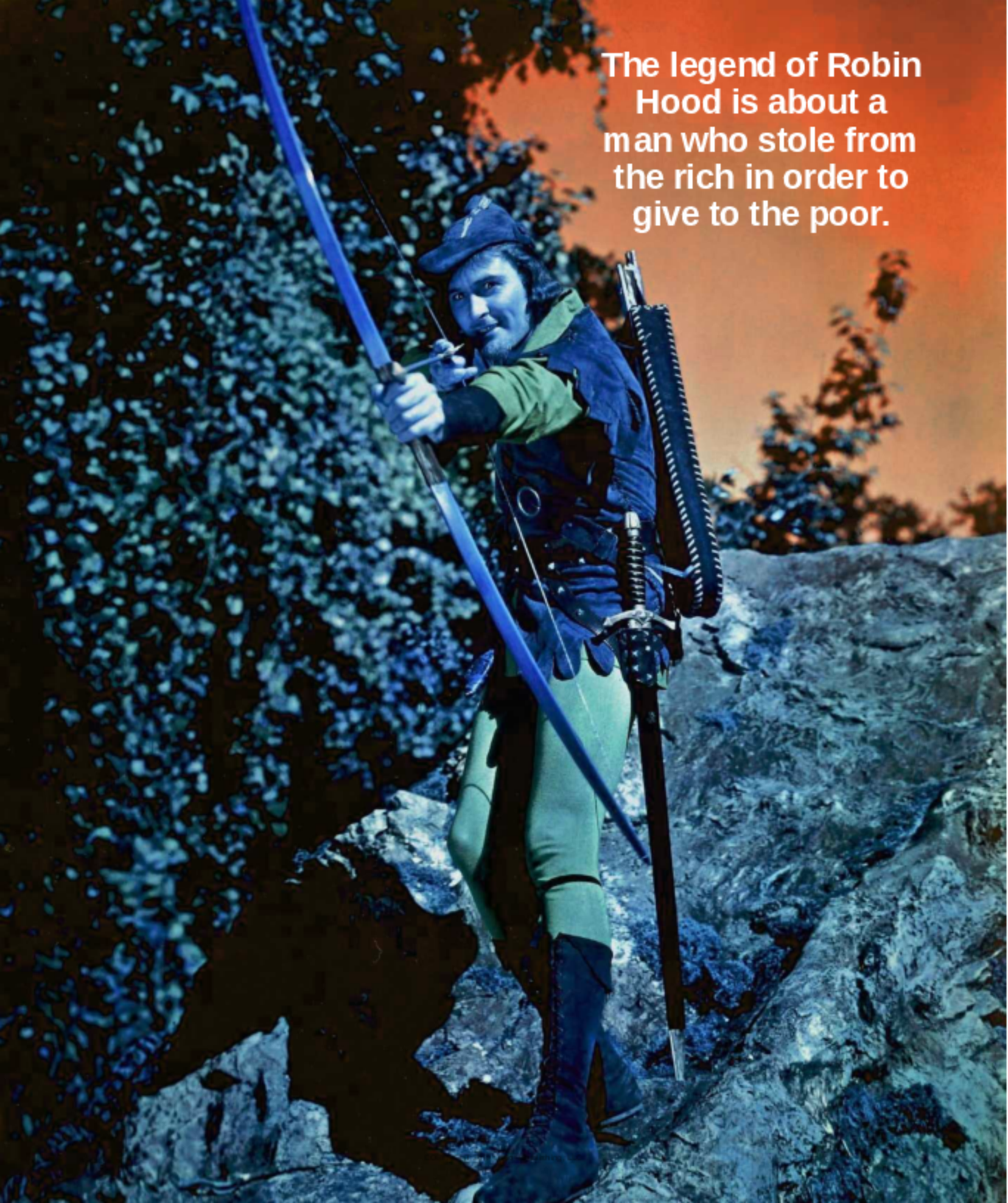


## **FAST FACT**

Fables, myths, and legends are ways to look into the past!




The legend of Robin Hood is about a man who stole from the rich in order to give to the poor.





# Famous Stories

Fables, myths, and legends have special **features** that make them different from each other. Many have become famous. You might know some already!



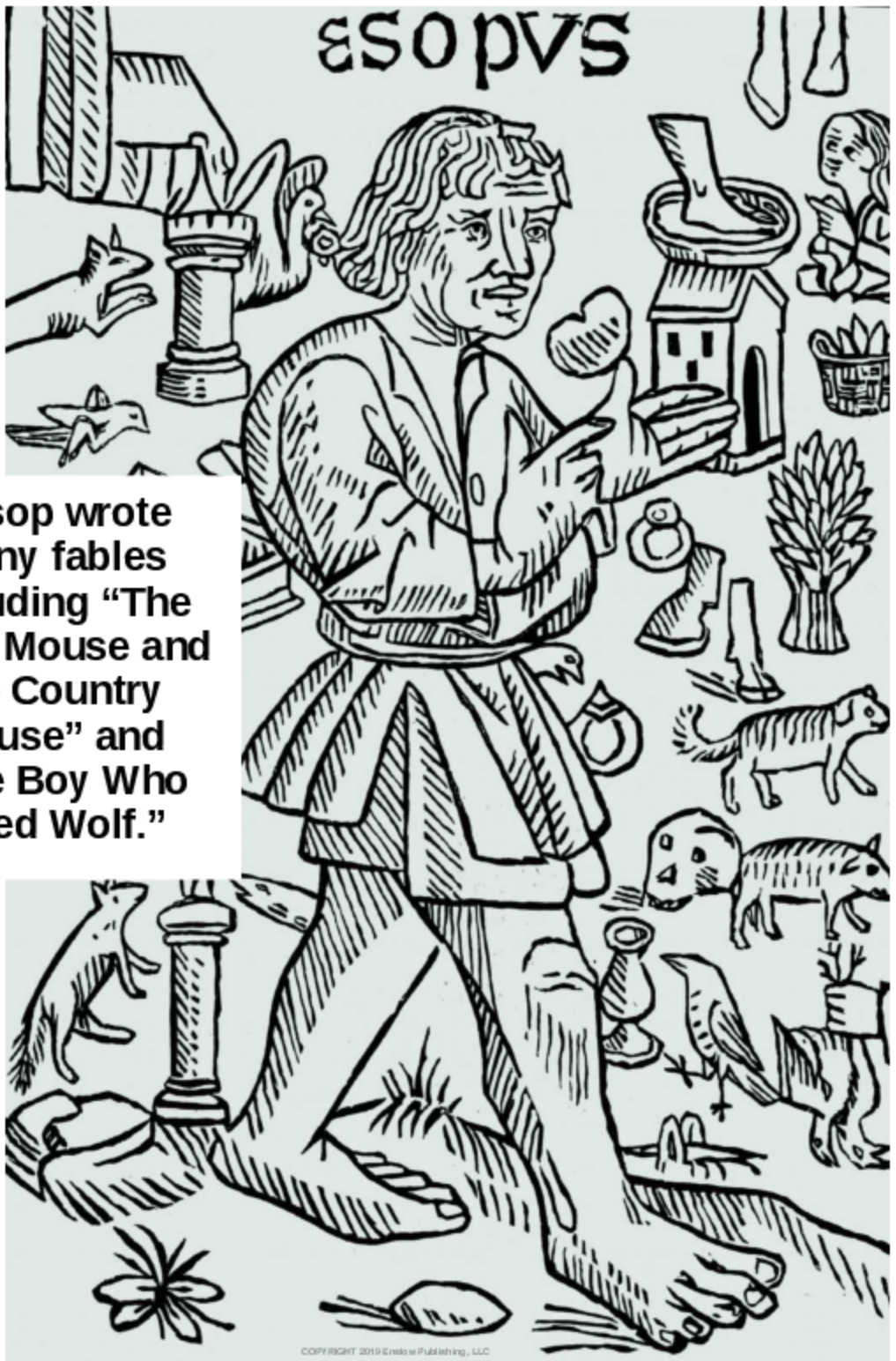
## **FAST FACT**

The story of Robin Hood is a famous legend that has been told in many stories and movies.



ÆSOPVS

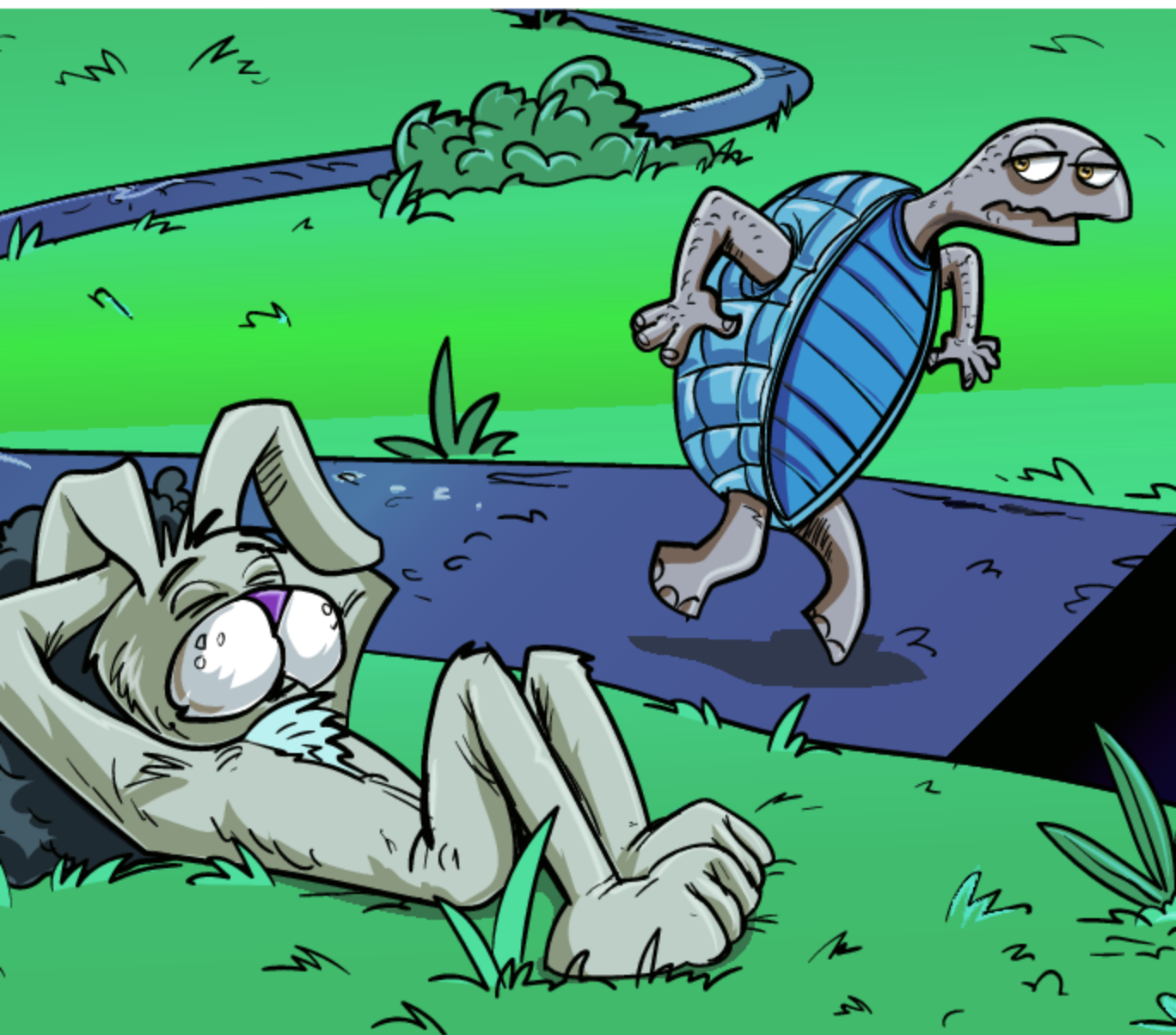
Aesop wrote many fables including “The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse” and “The Boy Who Cried Wolf.”





# Fables Teach

A fable is a story that teaches a lesson. Fables often feature animals that act like people. A Greek slave named Aesop is said to have written many fables.



**"The Tortoise and the Hare"  
teaches us to keep going, even  
if we are not the best or fastest.**



# “The Tortoise and the Hare”

“The **Tortoise** and the **Hare**” is one of Aesop’s fables. In it, a hare and tortoise have a race. The hare thinks he will win, so he takes a nap—and loses!



## **FAST FACT**

The lesson in “The Tortoise and the Hare” is “slow but **steady** wins the race.”





**Thor is a god in Norse myths who carries a powerful hammer.**



# Myths Explain

Myths are stories about gods and heroes. They often **explain** why things happen. **Ancient** people believed myths were true. There are many myths about how the world was created.



## FAST FACT

Ancient Greeks, Romans,  
Egyptians, Native  
Americans, and Norsemen  
had myths.





**Greek myths say that the god  
Poseidon created horses.**



# Myths and Nature

Ancient people did not know about science like we do. They used myths to explain events in nature. Other myths explain where people come from and what happens after death.



## **FAST FACT**

Today, “myth” is also a word for a story that is not true.



**Apollo was  
known as the god  
of light and sun.**





# Apollo and the Sun

Apollo was the son of Zeus, the king of the Greek gods. Each day, Apollo rode a golden **chariot** through the air. This myth explained why the sun moved across the sky.



## FAST FACT

Ancient Romans gave many of the Greek gods new names. Zeus was Jupiter to the Romans.





**The Pied  
Piper leads all  
of the children  
out of town by  
playing his  
magic pipe.**




# Looking into Legends

Legends are stories about certain places or people. They are told like they are history. A legend often has both true and made-up parts.



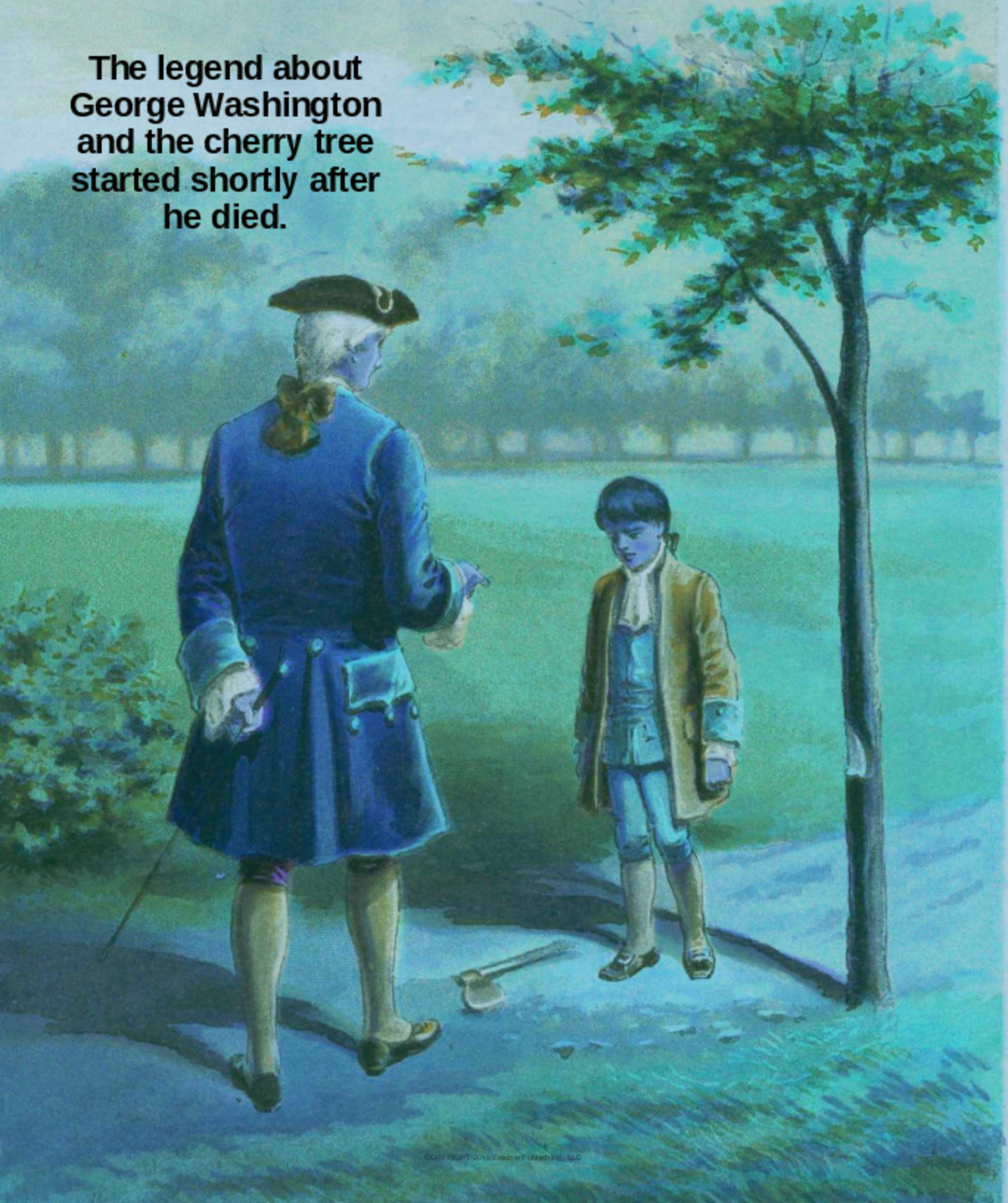
## **FAST FACT**

The legend of the Pied Piper tells how he **punished** a town for not paying him for chasing away rats. He **stole their children!**






**The legend about  
George Washington  
and the cherry tree  
started shortly after  
he died.**





# George Washington and the Cherry Tree

One famous legend is about young George Washington. He chopped down a cherry tree. Later, George told his angry father about it. George said he could not tell a lie. But the legend is not true!



## **FAST FACT**

The legend of Washington chopping down the tree tells us that Americans value telling the truth.

# Activity

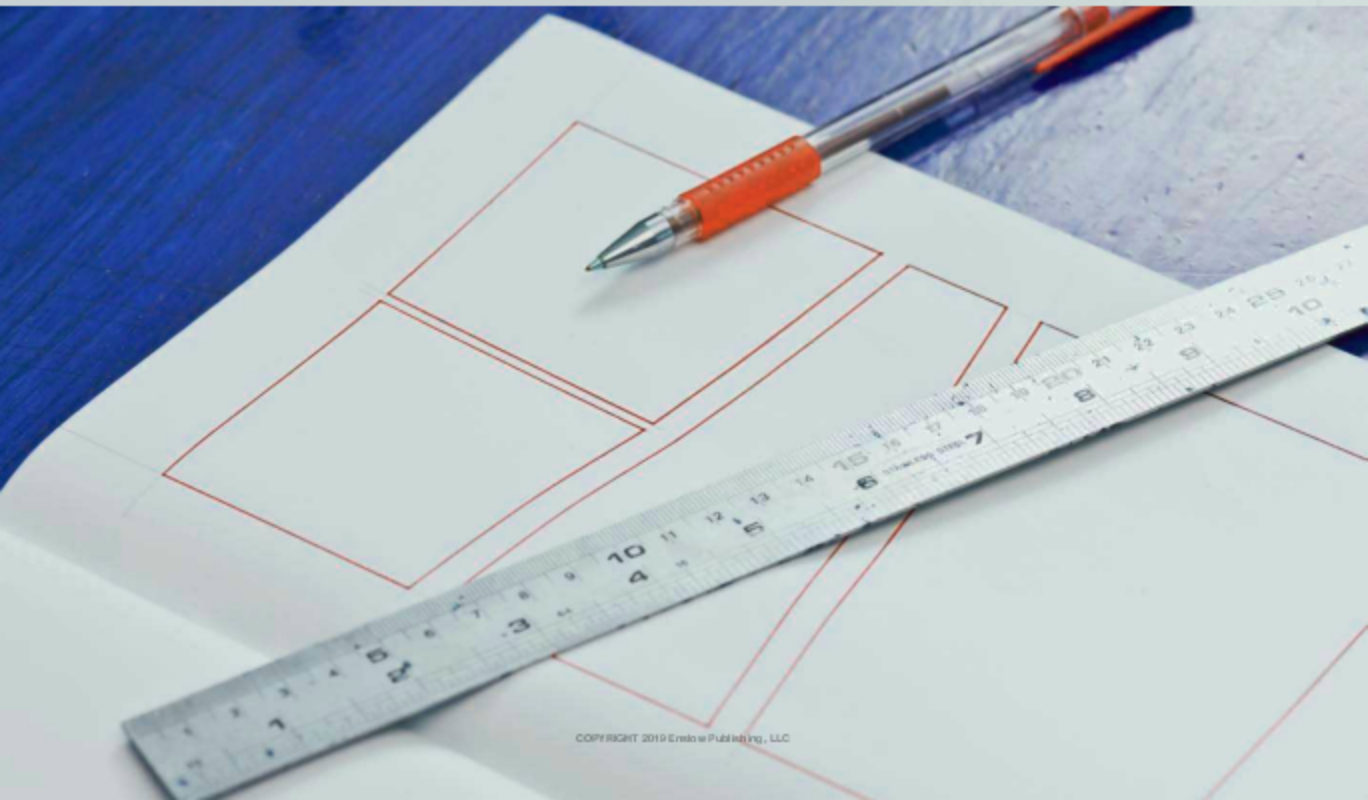
## Make Your Own Comic Book




### MATERIALS

- paper
- ruler
- pencils


Comic books often feature people doing amazing things, just like in many







fables, myths, and legends. You can make your own comic book about a fable, myth, or legend!

1. Pick a fable, myth, or legend that you think would make a good comic book. You can find them using the websites at the end of this book or in a book at the library.
  2. Draw boxes on white sheets of paper. These will be the spaces in which you will draw and tell the story.
  3. Decide what will go in each box—and start making your comic book!
- 

## LEARN MORE

### Books

Aesop. *The Aesop for Children*. Minneapolis, MN: First Avenue Editions, 2014.

Hoena, Blake. *Epic Adventures of Odysseus: An Interactive Mythological Adventure*. North Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 2017.

Lock, Deborah. *Myths and Legends*. New York, NY: DK Publishing, 2015.

### Websites

#### Ancient Myths & Folktales for Kids

[www.mrdonn.org/stories.html](http://www.mrdonn.org/stories.html)

Read about ancient tales from around the world.

#### Myths and Legends

[www.history-for-kids.com/myths-and-legends.html](http://www.history-for-kids.com/myths-and-legends.html)

Check out myths and poems about famous characters in myths.

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