Worksheet 2

The Magic Shop
The Magic Sword

*He turned to the man. "Is that a Magic Sword?" he said. "A Magic Sword indeed.
It neither bends, breaks, nor cuts the fingers. It renders the bearer invincible in battle
against anyone under eighteen. These are also available:
shield of safety, sandals of swiftness, helmet of invisibility."*

Magic swords have been used in myths and legends for hundreds of years. It is thought that the concept of a sword being imbued with magical powers stems from the ancient belief that sword making - transforming a lump of earth into a high quality shiny blade - was a magical process in itself.

Task 1: Research the mythological significance of magic swords. Write a brief synopsis of stories that include magic swords from three or more of the following cultures:

❖ Arthurian times.

❖ Norse Mythology

❖ Greek mythology

❖ Japanese Mythology

❖ Spanish legends

❖ French legends

❖ Medieval times

Task 2: Compose an imaginary text that includes a magic sword. Be sure to plan the narrative before you begin writing in order to clarify your ideas:

•   *Where is the story set?*

•   *Who will be the hero character in the story?*

•   *Who is the villain?*

•   *How will the sword be introduced into the narrative?*

•   *What powers will the sword have?*

•   *How will it be used to defeat enemies and/or overcome obstacles?*

Extension Activities:

•   Identify how mythical magic swords have been represented in modern day literature and films (e.g. *The Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter*, *Jabberwocky*) and computer, tablet or console games (e.g. *The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword*).

•   Research the history of swords. How were they made? Who made them? Why were they highly prized? How are they historically significant in cultures such as the New Zealand Maoris and Japanese Samurais?

•   Imagine you were in *The Magic Shop* and the shopkeeper was showing you the *shield of safety*, *sandals of swiftness* and *helmet of invisibility* (from the excerpt above). Which one would you buy? Explain reasons for your answer.