

Worksheet 2

Sinbad the Sailor

Legendary Monsters

Suddenly it became dark. Sinbad looked skywards, thinking the sun had disappeared behind a cloud. A gigantic bird was flying overhead; it had completely blocked out the sun's rays. Sinbad recalled an old traveller's tale of the roc, a giant bird that feeds elephants to its chicks. The white 'dome' must be the creature's egg. Sure enough, the bird settled on the egg, covering it with its enormous wings.

A **roc** is an enormous legendary bird of prey made popular in Arabian fairy tales. The origins of the roc are thought to have derived from reported accounts of a giant eagle sighted by the first settlers on the island of Madagascar. Other mythical birds similar to the Roc include the Thunderbird, Griffin, Gandaberunda, Phoenix and Ziz.

Task 1: Research one of the legendary birds listed above. Compose an informative text outlining the bird's origins and provide detailed descriptions of its appearance and magical powers (if any). Use illustrations to support your text.

Down from the castle strode an immense hideous creature, part man, part beast. He was as tall as a tree, with black skin and blazing eyes. His mouth was as large as a well, his bottom lip drooped down to his chin and his pendulous earlobes reached his shoulders. Even more terrifying, he had boar-like tusks and the claws of a lion.

Monsters such as the roc and the giant described above are fictional creatures found in myths, legends and horror movies. They are depicted as hideous in appearance and evoke fear by bringing physical harm to anyone who crosses their path.

Task 2: Create your own legendary monster. Write a detailed description of the monster including what they eat, where they live and who their enemies are. Support your written description with a detailed illustration using arrows to explain certain body parts.

Task 3: Write an adventure story that includes your monster. Use a narrative planning structure to plan the text ensuring the story has an orientation, complication, series of events, resolution and conclusion.

Task 4: Convert your narrative text into graphic novel format (using digital animation software if possible).

Extension Activity:

- Conduct a survey of your classmates asking them what they think is the scariest legendary monster.
- How have modern-day filmmakers transformed the traditional idea of legendary monsters (e.g. the ogre is the loveable hero in *Shrek*)? Can you think of any other examples from the texts you have read and viewed?