# English Home Learning

## Summer Term – Week 2 (wb 27th April 2020)

This week, we would like you to look at a Maya Myth called *'The story of the Hero Twins'* and plan your own mythological comic.

We have split the ideas into five different sessions, but this is only a guide. Please feel free to adjust the sessions so that they fit into your household timetable.

We would love to see and read your mythological comics at the end of the week. If you are able to take a photo and upload it to Google Classrooms, that would be great!

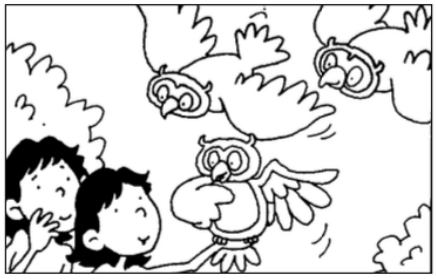
**SESSION 1**

1) Please read the Maya Myth below:

### The Story of the Hero Twins

Read the tale below of the "Hero Twins" Hunahpu (*hoo nah poo*) and Xbalanque (*shaw bal an kay*), two famous characters in Maya mythology. The story tells how the twins outsmarted the gods of the underworld, or Xibalba (*shee bahl bah*), to become immortal.

The twins loved to play ball, but the noise of their playing made the underworld gods angry.

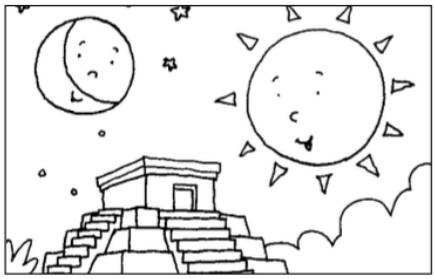


The gods sent messenger owls to summon the twins down to the underworld, called Xibalba.

The gods made the twins stay in the Dark House, which was the first of many scary nights.

The twins escaped by tricking the gods, winning every challenge they faced in Xibalba.

After the last challenge, the twins jumped in a river and turned into magical catfish.



The twins were later reborn as the sun and the moon—more powerful than the underworld!

2) Now let's look at the story plan for this myth by answering the following questions:

-**Characters:** Who are the main characters in the story? Name them.
-**Setting:** Where does the myth take place?
-**Plot:** What happens at the beginning, middle, and end?

Can you read the myth to someone in your household? Try telling them what happens using just the answers/notes from the questions above?

**SESSION 2**

Now it's your turn! ☺

You need to **plan** your own mythological comic. For today, please can you think about:

-**Characters:** Who are **your** main characters? Name them.

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-**Setting:** Where does **your** myth take place?

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-**Plot:** What happens at the beginning, middle, and end of **your** myth?

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**SESSION 3**

Let's create a title and a title frame for your comic:

**Sketch the first frame of your comic here.**

Create a 'Vocabulary & Pronunciation List' for your comic.  For example (using the Hero Twins story):

-Hero Twins are Hunahpu (*hoo nah poo)* and Xbalanque (*shaw bal an kay)*.
-The underworld Xibalba (*shee bahl bah)*
-etc.

You may choose to use unusual 'Maya style' names for your characters or settings – just let the reader know how you would like them to say the names (or 'pronounce' the names.  This is called 'pronunciation').

## SESSION 4

It is now time to draw out and write your mythologic comic. We have included a comic template, should you wish to use it – but you don't have to – you can draw out your own! Ours comes with 6 frames (the same as the Maya Myth).

Things you may wish to think about are:

- ⇒ **Using a ruler and sharp pencil** – if you are drawing your own template, you want it to be neat and spaced out accurately.
- ⇒ **Using a light pencil** – when you are first drawing your picture or writing your text (words), you may make an error or wish to edit and improve it. This is much easier to do if you start with a light pencil – you can simply rub it out.
- ⇒ **An eye-catching design/layout** – remember - you want people to read your comic, so make it beautiful, clear to read, and interesting.

## SESSION 5

Finish writing your comic and now **edit it**. This means that you need to read your myth (preferably 'out loud'), nice and slowly, to check for any errors or mistakes.

Here's a checklist that might help you:

1. Does it make sense? Read it slowly and carefully – have you missed out any words or sentences? Are the pictures clear?
2. Do you have capital letters at the start of every sentence? Do you have capital letters for names of people and places – e.g. the Xibalba?
3. Does every sentence end with a full stop, an exclamation mark or a question mark? (e.g. ?!.)
4. Is your spelling correct?
5. Have you joined your sentences together using and, or, but?
6. Could the layout be improved? Could it be neater? Could it be more colourful?

Now remember 'Austin's Butterfly' – and go back and improve your comic. Make it the best possible Mythology Comic we have ever read! ☺

## CHALLENGE

- ⇒ Could you choose one of your characters and write a 'back story' for them. Where did they grow up? Did they have a family? What were their parents like? What are their ambitions in life? Did they fulfil their ambitions?
- ⇒ Draw a picture of one of your main characters. You may wish to choose the 'antagonist' in your story (the 'baddy'). In myths, the antagonist is often a strange creature. What does yours look like? Can you annotate (label) your drawing to describe each particular feature?

- ⇒ Can you think about a follow-up story to your comic? What happens next to your characters? Do they go on to have a whole series of adventures or quests?
- ⇒ Think about settings. Can you draw different mythological settings? Perhaps try to use different mediums (pens, pencils, collage, lego, Minecraft, chalk, paint, play-doh, cut-out scraps of paper/material – whatever you have available at home). Which works best? Do certain types of mediums work better for different settings.