**Nature Myths: Fire**

Fire myths usually follow this pattern:

1. The people have no fire
2. A hero gets fire from the gods (usually by a clever trick)
3. People find that fire is very useful
4. They also find that fire brings evil with it

Read “The Flying Pygmy” from Africa—does it follow this pattern?

*At the beginning of time, God had fire and the pygmy people had none. God’s mother sat by the fire all day while God went out and played in the jungle. One of the clever pygmies decided to steal fire from God. He made himself a pair of wings with a bird’s feathers, flew to God’s house and picked up the fire. But, God’s mother woke up and cried out,*

*“Thief! Bring back fire or I’ll freeze to death!”*

*God rushed home and chased the flying pygmy but couldn’t catch him. The pygmy people used fire to keep warm and cook their food. When God returned home he found his mother dead. Since then the pygmies have also died.*

Summarize the four main parts of “The Flying Pygmy” myth:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 |  |
| 2 |  |
| 3 |  |
| 4 |  |

Trickster—the trickster is common in myths, especially fire myths.

Read:

1. Promethus from Greece <http://www.prometheas.org/mythology.html>
2. Coyote from North America <http://www.planetozkids.com/oban/coyofir3.htm>

Write summaries of each story, then answer: Is the trickster a hero?