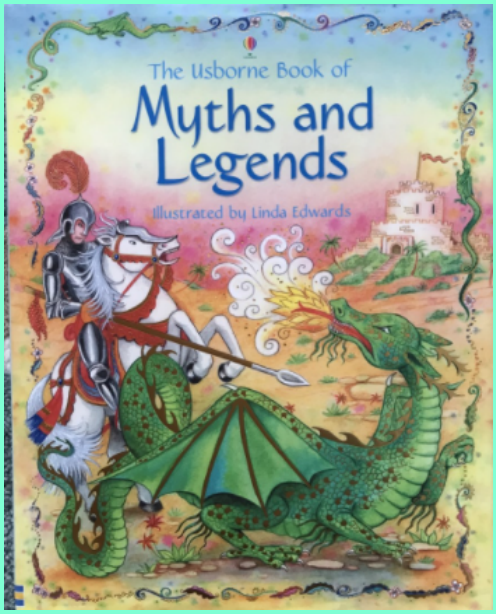
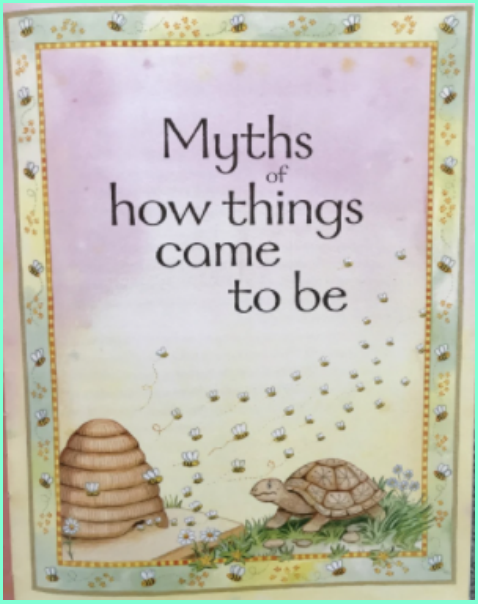
Monday 8th March

LO: To find information in the story to answer questions


The Usborne Book of
Myths and Legends
Illustrated by Linda Edwards


Myths
of
how things
came
to be

Athena



The ancient Greeks worshipped Athena as the goddess of war, wisdom and handicrafts. She was one of twelve gods believed to live on *Mount Olympus*.

Athena's symbols were the olive tree (representing peace) and the owl (representing wisdom).



y Planet/Getty Images

Can you find the capital of Greece on this map?

Athena's name is closely linked with this city. The Ancient Greeks debated whether she was named after the city or the other way round.

Have you spotted Mount Olympus where Athena was believed to live?

	Glossary
Athena	Ancient Greek Goddess of wisdom, war, weaving, pottery and various other crafts.
intricate	Very complicated or detailed.
conceited	Excessively proud of oneself (vain).
goddess	A female deity (god).
elaborate	Detailed and complicated.
scuttled	Run hurriedly with short quick steps.
dew	Tiny drops of water that form on cool surfaces at night.
descendants	A person, plant or animal that is descended from a particular ancestor.



Big Black Velvet Greek Spider

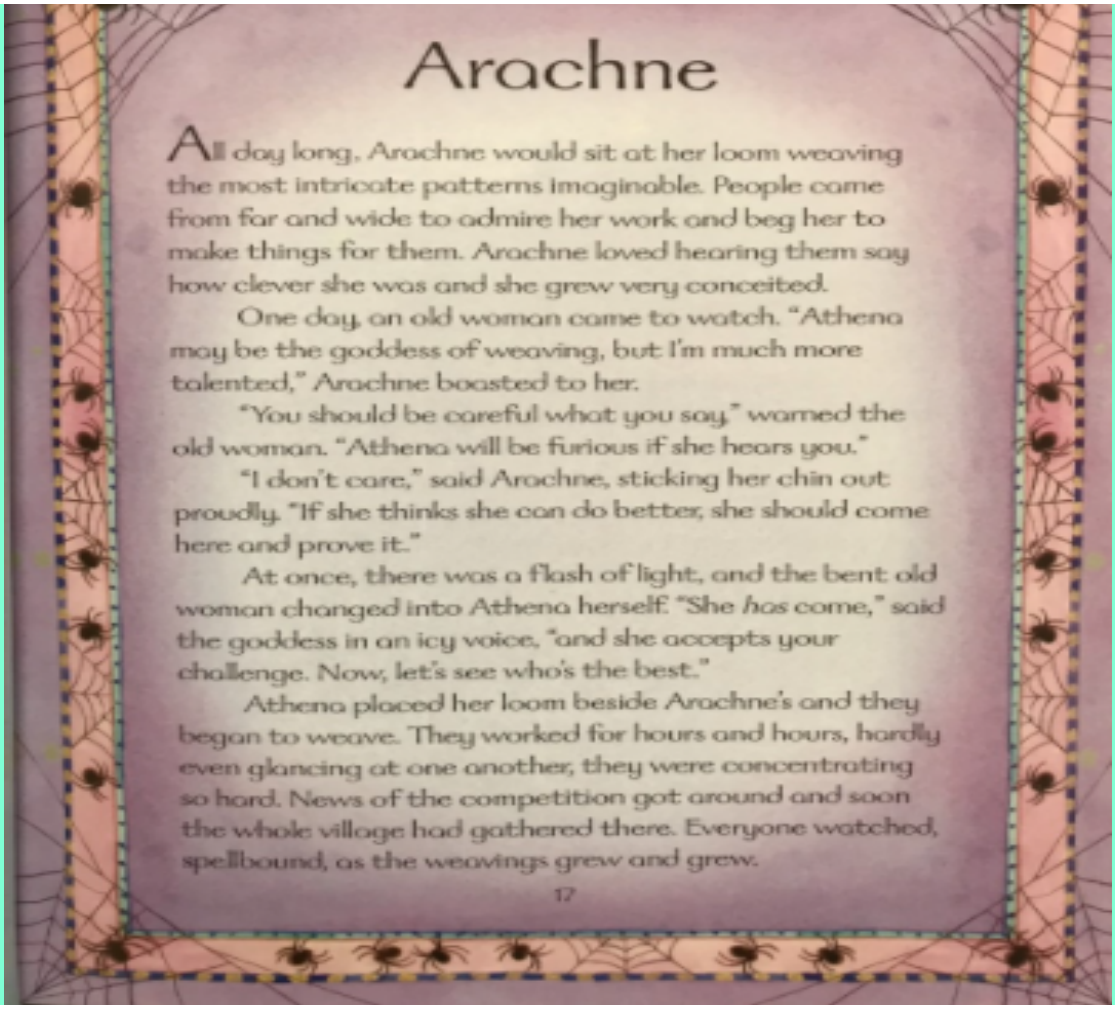
Which two words above are synonyms (same meaning) of each other?

Can you think of another synonym which could have been used to describe Arachne's weaving?

Finding answers on the first read:-

LO: To find information in the story to answer questions.

1. Why did Arachne boast about her weaving?
2. Why were the villagers spellbound?
3. What are the words 'as perfect as could be' an example of?
4. What were Arachne's delicate fingers turned into by Athena?
5. Why do people no longer want Arachne's beautiful weaving?
6. What can you often see 'sparkling' in the morning dew?



Arachne

All day long, Arachne would sit at her loom weaving the most intricate patterns imaginable. People came from far and wide to admire her work and beg her to make things for them. Arachne loved hearing them say how clever she was and she grew very conceited.

One day, an old woman came to watch. "Athena may be the goddess of weaving, but I'm much more talented," Arachne boasted to her.

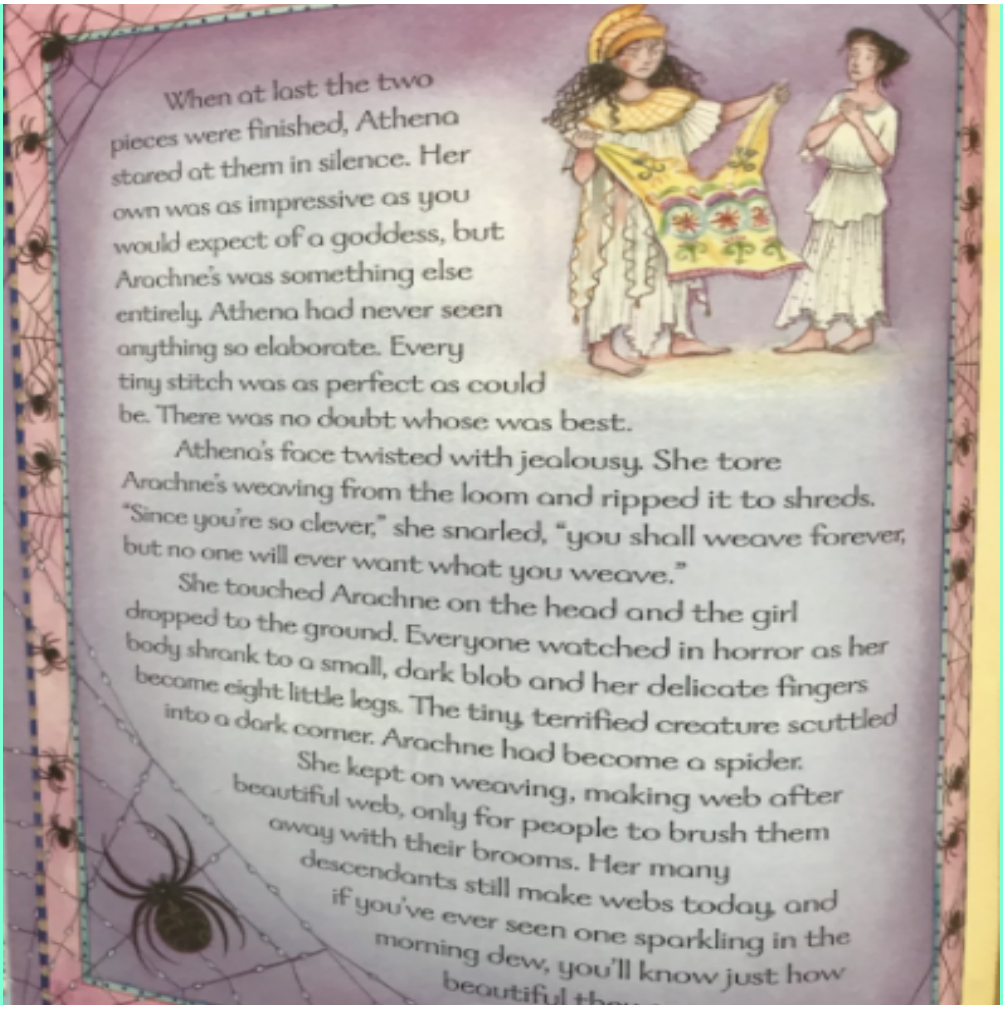
"You should be careful what you say," warned the old woman. "Athena will be furious if she hears you."

"I don't care," said Arachne, sticking her chin out proudly. "If she thinks she can do better, she should come here and prove it."

At once, there was a flash of light, and the bent old woman changed into Athena herself. "She *has* come," said the goddess in an icy voice, "and she accepts your challenge. Now, let's see who's the best."

Athena placed her loom beside Arachne's and they began to weave. They worked for hours and hours, hardly even glancing at one another, they were concentrating so hard. News of the competition got around and soon the whole village had gathered there. Everyone watched, spellbound, as the weavings grew and grew.

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When at last the two pieces were finished, Athena stared at them in silence. Her own was as impressive as you would expect of a goddess, but Arachne's was something else entirely. Athena had never seen anything so elaborate. Every tiny stitch was as perfect as could be. There was no doubt whose was best.

Athena's face twisted with jealousy. She tore Arachne's weaving from the loom and ripped it to shreds. "Since you're so clever," she snarled, "you shall weave forever, but no one will ever want what you weave."

She touched Arachne on the head and the girl dropped to the ground. Everyone watched in horror as her body shrank to a small, dark blob and her delicate fingers became eight little legs. The tiny, terrified creature scuttled into a dark corner. Arachne had become a spider.

She kept on weaving, making web after beautiful web, only for people to brush them away with their brooms. Her many descendants still make webs today, and if you've ever seen one sparkling in the morning dew, you'll know just how beautiful th

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