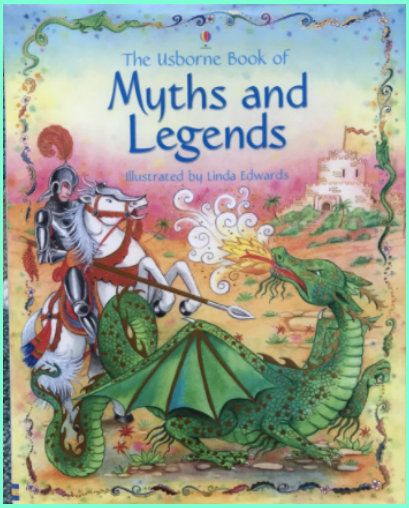
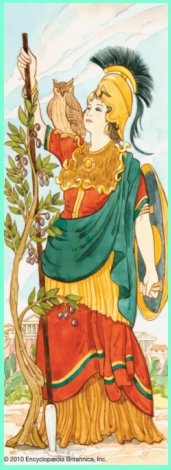
Wednesday 10th March





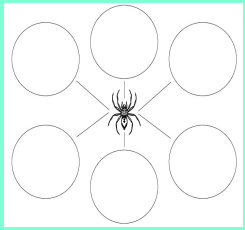




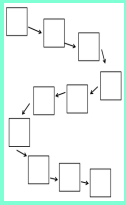
Third reading - question the author

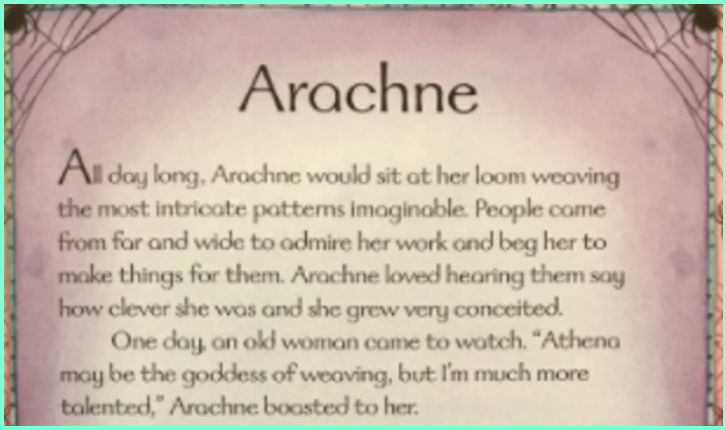
LO: To check my understanding as I read the story.

What have you remembered about the myth?
You could:
- draw a mind map
- draw a story board
- re-tell the myth as a summary









Arachne

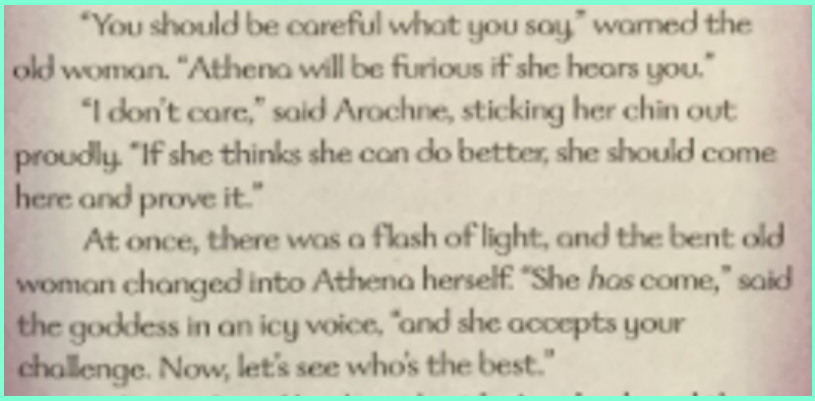
All day long, Arachne would sit at her loom weaving the most intricate patterns imaginable. People came from far and wide to admire her work and beg her to make things for them. Arachne loved hearing them say how clever she was and she grew very conceited.

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.

This is a Greek myth about 'Arachne' which means 'spider' in Greek. Can you work out what 'Arachnophobia' might mean? I know other stories involving spiders such as Aaaarrgghh! Spider and Charlotte's Web.

There are many other myths involving the goddess of weaving, *Athena* such as her contest against Poseidon for becoming the patron deity of Athens; her transforming Medusa into a Gorgon (creature in Greek mythology) and her cursing Tiresias to go blind!

Arachne was so used to being praised for her beautiful weaving that she had become excessively proud of herself (conceited) and she boasted to an old lady that she was *more* talented than Athena! This was very foolish as we know that Athena wouldn't want anyone else to be considered to be more skilful than herself.



"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."

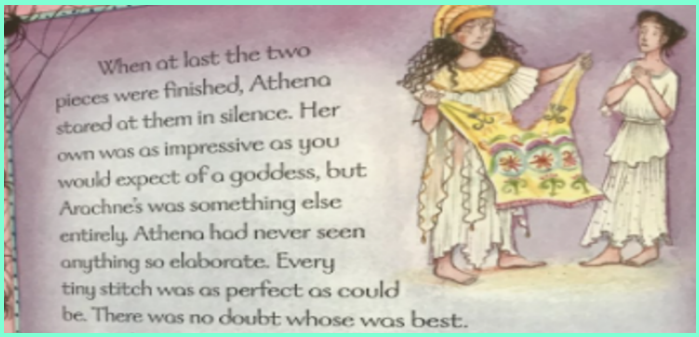
At once, there was a flash of light, and the bent old woman changed into Athena herself. "She *has* come," said the goddess in an icy voice, "and she accepts your challenge. Now, let's see who's the best."

Despite being warned about her careless talk, Arachne continued to be extremely proud and she boasted that she was up to the challenge with the goddess herself! Of course, Athena was furious that Arachne would say that and she immediately challenged Arachne to a weaving contest.

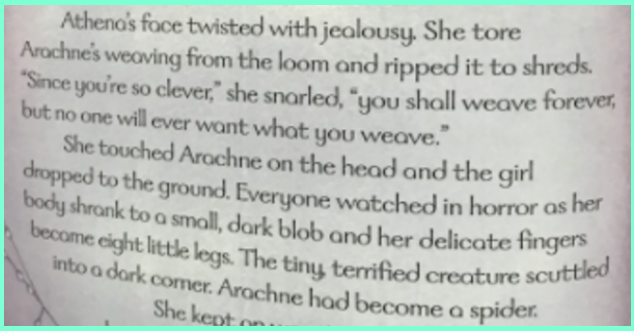
Athena placed her loom beside Arachne's and they began to weave. They worked for hours and hours, hardly even glancing at one another, they were concentrating so hard. News of the competition got around and soon the whole village had gathered there. Everyone watched, spellbound, as the weavings grew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

The two of them set up their looms and worked tirelessly from dawn til dusk. The news of the contest spread far and wide. Everyone waited with *bated breath* (to hold one's breath due to suspense, trepidation or fear) to find out what would happen next.

Have you spotted what the phrase 'bated breath' is an example of?

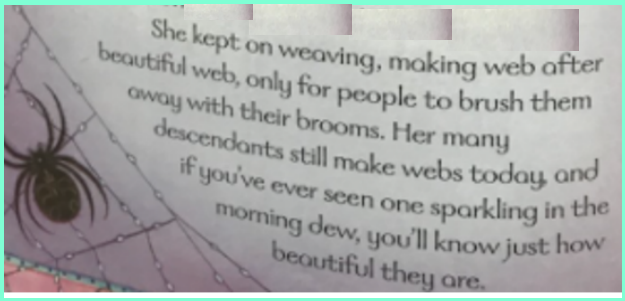


Both pieces of finished weaving were really impressive but Athena's stitches were 'as perfect as could be.' What's this phrase an example of?


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.

Clearly, Arachne was the 'greatest weaver in the world' however she had the bad luck of defeating the goddess Athena - her fate's the proof of it.


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 they are.

Centuries later, most people still don't appreciate the beautiful webs of spiders as they brush them away. In fact, many people fear spiders. Arachnophobia refers to the *intense fear* of spiders (spider phobia)

Third reading - question the author

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