Lesson Objective: To write creatively using a prescribed form.

Success Criteria:
- To identify the key features of a text type.
- To produce a creative writing piece using a set form.

Starter

Starter Activity
On this slide students are asked to relay what they already know about the use of monsters in fiction generally and then to think about what they know about myth. Students should be encouraged to create their own definitions of what a myth is before looking it up.

Myths
On this slide students are given a definition of a myth – they should have had the opportunity to both create their own definition and look one up in a dictionary or on their own electronic device before this. Ask students what myths they might be aware of — they may know Greek, Roman or Hindu ones perhaps. What key features of language (phrase in particular) do they find in these stories since they are originally oral in nature?

Main Activities

The Chinese New Year Myth
Students may have studied the myths surrounding Chinese New Year before and so may have heard of Nian. Students should be asked to read the story that follows but with an eye out for what they imagine might be the key features of this type of story.

The Story of Nian
From this slide onwards the story of Nian is retold. Ask students to write down any phrases they know occur in myths, fairy tales or folktales regularly as they read the story. You may also choose to give students The Myth of the Monster Nian Lesson One The Monster of New Year Story to follow along with. On this sheet they may annotate or underline the key features that they notice. You may wish to use The Myth of the Monster Nian Lesson One Questions and Answers as a quick check of understanding with weaker groups. These are simple reading comprehension questions that rely on information retrieval only. Answers are available in the same document.

Telling a Myth
Here students are asked to make notes and share the information they have collected about the key phrasing and plot elements essential to an origin myth of this type. They may talk about the phrases: long, long ago, from that day to this, many had tried and all had perished etc. They may find it beneficial to watch a version of the story for a different telling: This is a great children’s version with lovely graphics. This is also nice and uses traditional shadow puppet type animation, though the sound quality is poor.
Plenary

Teach Someone Else
On this slide students are asked to write a plenary activity in which they explain the information from this part of the lesson to other students as a webpage write-up. This can be done in any other style, as preferred.

Follow On
To follow up the material on the powerpoint, students may be asked to create their own story based around a tradition that they would like to explain in mythic terms. The Monster Nian Creative Writing Lesson Two Pack can help here as it includes a PowerPoint and planning worksheet. The Monster Nian Creative Writing Lesson Two The Creation of the Seasons Story might be useful to show another origins myth (this time from Western culture) as an additional text to look at and annotate. The Monster Nian Creative Writing Lesson Two Myth Writing Prompt Sheet gives a range of ideas to help develop a story in this genre.