



LESSON PLAN

STRANGE STORIES

Series: The Unexplained

Objective

To help students practice identifying and retelling the main idea of a short book, and to have students write a short story of their own that provides a supernatural explanation for a strange event.

Supplies

- One or more books in The Unexplained series
- Explaining Legends Sentence Stems (attached)
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Print enough copies of the Explaining Legends Sentence Stems for each student to have one, cutting them apart so each set of two stems is on its own slip of paper.

Activity

Have each student choose one book from The Unexplained series to read. Each book in this series tells some of the famous legends about a mysterious place or occurrence. It also reveals some possible scientific explanations for the mystery.

First, have students read their chosen books and fill out the sentence stems about their topics. Next, have students think about another strange event that they have read about or experienced. Invite students to write a short legend that explains what happened. This legend does not have to be realistic. Like the tales from the books, it can include aliens, magic, ghosts, or other supernatural elements.

Evaluation

Invite a few volunteers to read their stories out loud. Then collect all the sentence stems and stories. Could each student accurately describe his or her book's topic and one potential scientific explanation for it? Could each student also craft a story that told an exciting sequence of events?



EXPLAINING LEGENDS SENTENCE STEMS

According to legend, (a) _____ is _____
_____.

One possible explanation is _____

_____.

According to legend, (a) _____ is _____
_____.

One possible explanation is _____

_____.

According to legend, (a) _____ is _____
_____.

One possible explanation is _____

_____.

According to legend, (a) _____ is _____
_____.

One possible explanation is _____

_____.