

Myth and Fairytale: The Purpose of Story in Modern Times

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Introduction

Myths and fairytales are found across many cultures, often providing entertainment for young ones and a base for stories to build upon. Why is this? What meanings do they hold? Finding the function of myths in modern society with a focus on Appalachia will show us what we find important. Which morals, which personality traits, and which behaviors are approved of. This study will also find which groups at Marshall University are involved with myth and fairytales.

Theory

For this study I focused on the prevalence of myth and fairytales in our modern society, and the meanings given to them. The function per myth varies, with each focusing on an element of society that needs an explanation or a lesson to be taught. Myths are spread by being interwoven in our popular culture through books, movies, and songs. Students who feel they belong in Appalachian culture show more interest in myth and fairytale due to the strong sense of tradition Appalachian culture has instilled in its inhabitants. By discussing what they've learned from folklore, students can exhibit what modern Appalachian society deems important.

Music is an important part of our culture, so it's no surprise we find references to myth when listening to the radio. Chart-topping song "Somewhere Just Like This" by Coldplay and The Chainsmokers wrote the following lyrics:

I've been reading books of old

The legends and the myths

Achilles and his gold

Hercules and his gifts

Spiderman's control

And Batman with his fists

And clearly I don't see myself upon that list (2017).

While referencing modern superheroes Spiderman and Batman the artists also reference Greek mythology heroes Achilles and Hercules, creating a comparison between the four. The four possess super-human abilities, but according to the song these are not needed to be loved. The song shows that you can be a regular human and still find happiness (Taggart, Martin, Berryman, Buckland, & Champion, 2017)

Movies and TV shows are popular methods of portraying myth hidden in a new story. *The Ritual* (Cavendish, Holmes, Serkis, & Bruckner, 2017) is a film which uses Norse mythology to create a “monster” to prey on the main characters. This creature was said to be a Jötunn, a giant child of the god Loki, and was used as a metaphor for a guilty conscience and fear. HBO’s *Game of Thrones* has many references to mythology throughout the series. In the sixth season we have a scene in which a father has been unknowingly fed his own sons for dinner as part of a plot for revenge (Martin, Benioff, Weiss, & Sapochnik, 2016). This is reminiscent of Greek mythology where Titan Kronus consumed his children to prevent being overcome (Hesiod, 2004), and Atreus murdered and fed his nephews to their father for revenge (“House of Atreus”).

Podcasts are gaining increasing popularity and it’s no surprise to find one completely dedicated to folklore. Aaron Mahnke’s podcast “Lore” delves into folklore across the world, from the origins of vampires to haunted hotels. Most of these podcasts follow a general theme or location, then discuss the associated myths and gives context to how they began. The Mercy Brown vampire incident in Rhode Island occurred due to her body being exhumed and found to be remarkably preserved with blood still in some organs. Although at the time she was thought to be a supernatural creature, Mahnke gives the scientific explanation of the cold temperatures of her tomb aiding in preservation (2015). Many of the

myths discussed end up being explained scientifically at a later date, but we get to learn the reasoning for their birth.

Methods

The data are derived from a survey of students taking the general education classes of Marshall University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology that was developed and administered by the department's Senior Seminar course.¹ The survey was conducted between January 31 and February 16, 2018, where the students entered 13 classes on the Huntington campus, read the consent statement, passed out the forms, and collected the forms through a slit on the top of a box to ensure anonymity. One class from the Teays Valley and the Mid-Ohio Valley Center campuses were administered by their instructors. An invitation to the online version, developed using Qualtrics, was emailed to students who took online versions of the courses during the same period. The total population of in-class students on Huntington campus was 422, from which we received 291 responses for a rate of 69%, the population from remote campuses was 25, from which we received 21 for a rate of 84%, and the population of online students was 164, from which we received only 2 responses, a rate that was so low that we decided to not use them. The population of students in the department's general education courses has been generally representative of the broader student body at Marshall who are taking general education courses.

Data

The survey was constructed with a section for basic demographics, a section asking how often respondents engaged in given behaviors, and a section of statements which the respondent would

¹ The survey received Marshall IRB approval as study # 725823-6 under the title "Capstone Survey."

indicate four levels strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5) with neutral recorded but not prompted (see Appendix A for a copy of consent and questions).

Tables 1 and 3 report the general demographic makeup of the respondents, where 77.2% are between 18 and 20 years of age, 35.8% are male, 85.9% are white, 90.7% are in college straight from high school, 40.9% describe their parents as below middle class, 60.3% are from traditional households (parents and siblings), 56.1% of mothers and 64.3 % of fathers have less than a baccalaureate education, 67.7% are from rural or small town settings, and 8.6% are from West Virginia. The largest religious affiliation is Evangelical at 33.8%, followed by “none” at 22.7%, though 73.7% report religion as either “important” or “very important.” The largest political affiliation is Democrat at 23.4%, while 14.9% identified as “other liberal,” 19.8% identify as Republican, 1.9% identify as “other conservative,” 16.6% identify as “moderate,” and 23.4% report that they “don’t care.” The distribution was clearly skewed to lowerclassmen as the majority of students were Freshmen 56.9%, followed by Sophomores at 26.6%, with some 16.5% as upperclassmen. The distribution of students between Marshall colleges tended to over represent Health Professions, Liberal Arts, and Science, but it correlated more closely with the general population of students ($r=.86$) than the distribution of Freshmen ($r=.30$).

Tables 2 and 4 report frequencies and descriptive statistics of the responses from each of those sections relevant to this analysis.

The *folklore* scale was constructed from questions in the last section, and comprised of agreement with the following statements:

1. You can learn a lot about other cultures by studying their myths and fairy tales
2. I liked fairy tales as a child and will tell them to my children

3. I like movies that are based on childhood fairy tales
4. I look for computer games based on fairy tales and myths from various cultures
5. Fairy tales I heard as a child taught me something about society
6. Fairy tales can be found hidden throughout pop culture
7. Studying ancient myths tells us a lot about our own society

These questions scaled with a Cronbach $\alpha = .72$. The mean score for the scale was 25.0, and 66.5% of respondents scored above the midpoint of 12 (i.e. an average of neutral for all 4 questions).

The data provided several additional scales that proved relevant to this study. The first scale represented an affinity to aspects of craft and place in Appalachian culture, and consists of the following questions:

1. I would rather buy things made by people close to home
2. Handmade items are generally better quality than factory made items
3. I would rather live by hills and hollows than on flat lands
4. I would rather make things for people than work for a big corporation
5. Appalachian music and crafts are special and should be preserved
6. People who work with their hands should be given more respect

This *craft and place* scale has a Cronbach $\alpha = .63$ and finds that 66.8% of respondents had that affinity to Appalachian culture. The second scale also represented an aspect of Appalachian culture, but more related to folk medicine. It consisted of these questions

1. I have improved home remedies I was taught (e.g. ingredients, methods)

2. If I couldn't get to a doctor I would use a home remedy
3. For most common problems I prefer home remedies to doctors
4. I would be willing to share knowledge of family remedies with outsiders

The *folk medicine* scale has a Cronbach $\alpha = .65$, and 55.6% of respondents were above the midpoint of this scale. These two aspects of Appalachian culture combined in a broader *Appalachian culture* scale with a Cronbach $\alpha = .69$, and 64.2% of respondents were above the midpoint. The third scale consisted of students identified as *nerds* and had questions in a "how often" format:

1. Play role-playing game at gathering of friends/group (e.g. D&D, LARP)
2. Play collectable card games (e.g. Magic: The Gathering, Pokemon)
3. Engage in non-sport fandom activity (e.g. bands, e-games, cosplay)

The *nerd* scale has a Cronbach $\alpha = .60$, with 15.7% above the midpoint.

Analysis

The correlations analysis explored a large number (576) relationships among the demographics and the questions specified for this study, so this study will only report as statistically significant those with probability levels of $p < .01$, anticipating the possibility of 6 false positive results (unless the p levels are much lower).

The *folklore* scale shows a few strong correlations. Among the demographic factors, students who are in the College of Liberal Arts showed an interest in folklore ($r = .167$, $p = .006$), students who walked showed an interest in folklore ($r = 0.21$, $p = .001$), and students who identify as conservative are not interested in folklore ($r = -.189$, $p = .003$). Surprisingly, religious demographic factors such as belonging to evangelical religions ($r = .018$, $p = .775$), charismatic religions ($r = .067$, $p = .277$), mainline protestant religions ($r = .032$, $p = .607$), non-denominational Christianity ($r = -.109$, $p = .074$), Catholicism ($r = -0.03$,

p=0.63), and spiritualism ($r=.115$, $p=0.06$) do not significantly scale with folklore, even though that's essentially what their groups are built upon. However, students who answered positively to the question "I liked fairy tales as a child and will tell them to my children" also said religion was important to them ($r=.234$, $p<0.001$) and important to their family ($r=.229$, $p<0.001$). Students identifying on the liberal end of the political ideology spectrum showed a slight interest in folklore ($r=-.189$, $p=.003$).

Students who fell into the *nerd* category showed a strong interest in folklore ($r=.339$, $p<0.001$). They also agreed with the questions "You can learn a lot about other cultures by studying their myths and fairy tales" ($r=.115$, $p=.008$), "I liked fairy tales as a child and will tell them to my children" ($r=.153$, $p=.009$), "I look for computer games based on fairy tales and myths from various cultures" ($r=.435$, $p<0.001$), and "Fairy tales can be found hidden throughout pop culture" ($r=0.21$, $p<0.001$), which is unsurprising given their tendency to play role-playing games.

Students who identify with the *arts and crafts* part of Appalachian culture are more interested in folklore ($r=.318$, $p<0.001$), as are those who identify with the *folk medicine* part of Appalachian culture ($r=.224$, $p<0.001$). Students who identify with Appalachian culture as a whole also show interest in folklore ($r=.344$, $p<0.001$). Those who fell into the *arts and crafts* category had strong agreements with "I like movies that are based on childhood fairy tales" ($r=.248$, $p<0.001$) and "Fairy tales I heard as a child taught me something about society" ($r=.275$, $p<0.001$). There was a slight correlation between *arts and crafts* and the questions "You can learn a lot about other cultures by studying their myths and fairy tales" ($r=.177$, $p=.003$), "I liked fairy tales as a child and will tell them to my children" ($r=0.19$, $p=.002$), "Fairy tales can be found hidden throughout pop culture" ($r=.179$, $p=.003$), and "Studying ancient myths tells us a lot about our own society" ($r=.177$, $p=.003$). For those involved in *folk medicine* there are two slight correlations with the questions "I liked fairy tales as a child and will tell them to my children" ($r=.179$, $p=.003$) and "Fairy tales I heard as a child taught me something about society" ($r=.195$, $p=.001$). *Appalachian culture* as a whole had three strong correlations with the questions "I liked fairy tales as a

child and will tell them to my children" ($r=.234, p<0.001$), "I like movies that are based on childhood fairy tales" ($r=.263, p<0.001$), and "Fairy tales I heard as a child taught me something about society" ($r=.308, p<0.001$). There were three slight correlations with the questions "You can learn a lot about other cultures by studying their myths" ($r=.184, p=.003$), "Fairy tales can be found hidden throughout pop culture" ($r=.181, p=.003$), and "Studying ancient myths tells us a lot about our own society" ($r=.178, p=.004$).

An interesting correlation that was not expected, but seems too strange not to make note of, was that students who said they walked for exercise/fitness showed interest with the myth scale ($r=0.21, p=.001$), and an agreement the question "I liked fairy tales as a child and will tell them to my children" ($r=.173, p=.003$), the question "I look for computer games based on fairy tales and myths from various cultures" ($r=.183, p=.002$), and the question "Fairy tales can be found hidden throughout pop culture" ($r=.179, p=.002$).

Discussion

These data support a hypothesis that students at Marshall involved in Appalachian culture have higher interest in myth and fairytales. Students who reported interest in folklore also tended to be members of the College of Liberal Arts, see their religion as an important part of their lives, and fell into the "nerd" category. Affiliation with the "craft and place" aspect of Appalachian culture held high correlation with an interest in folklore and fairytale activities like gaming. These results suggest that students at Marshall who engage in Appalachian or "nerd" culture are interested in myth and fairytales more so than other groups.

One hypothesis could be that video games take myth to create new stories, like with D&D campaigns, and so nerds are more exposed to myth. These tales are seen by some as "make-believe" and might be childish to those who feel too mature to engage in nerd behavior and activities. Nerds

also engage in activities that allow escaping from reality, and adding more fantastical elements from mythology may make this easier or more appealing.

Of the demographic factors, students who fell towards the liberal end of the political spectrum engaged lightly with folklore. However, none of the religions posed a significant correlation to an interest in folklore. This was surprising given that religious importance held significant correlation to enjoying fairytales as a child and continuing the tradition, and one could say religious tales fall closely beside myths and folklore. This could be explained by students categorizing their belief systems in the realm of nonfiction and folklore as fiction.

Unexpected correlations did arise that seemed too consistent to be ignored. Students who engaged in walking for fitness were found to have an interest in myth, and also be involved in myth activities such as computer games and telling fairytales. A possible reason for this is that while walking they engage in pop culture media that includes mythology.

Conclusions

This study concludes that mythology is prevalent in pop culture, and students in the general education program that identify as any part of the Appalachian culture or fall into the *nerd* category are more interested in folklore and myth. Those involved with the arts and crafts side of Appalachian culture tended to be more interested in folklore than those involved with the folk medicine side, but Appalachian culture as a whole had significant correlations with the questions relating to myth and fairytales.

References

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Table 1. Demographic Makeup of General Education Students

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
age by group					
Valid	1 18-20	239	76.4	76.8	77.2
	2 21-24	51	16.3	16.4	93.6
	3 25-29	10	3.2	3.2	96.8
	4 30+	10	3.2	3.2	100
	Total	311	99.4	100	
Missing	System	3	0.6		
Total		313	100		
gender_id					
Valid	1 male	110	35.1	35.8	35.8
	2 agender	3	1	1	36.8
	3 female	194	62	63.2	100
	Total	307	98.1	100	
Missing	System	6	1.9		
Total		313	100		
race					
Valid	.00 not given	2	0.6	0.6	0.6
	1.00 white	255	81.5	81.5	82.1
	2.00 African Am	19	6.1	6.1	88.2
	3.00 Asian	5	1.6	1.6	89.8
	5.00 other	2	0.6	0.6	90.4
	6.00 international	10	3.2	3.2	93.6
	7.00 multiple	5	1.6	1.6	95.2
	Total	15	4.8	4.8	100
College class					
	1 Freshman	169	54	56.9	56.9
	2 Sophomore	78	24.9	26.3	83.2
	3 Junior	27	8.6	9.1	92.3
	4 Senior	21	6.7	7.1	99.3
	5 Grad student	1	0.3	0.3	99.7
	Total	297	94.6	100	
Missing	System	17	5.4		
		313	100		

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
College					
Valid	1.00 CAM	26	8.3	8.6	8.6
	2.00 CITE	15	4.8	5	13.6
	3.00 COB	9	2.9	3	16.6
	4.00 COEPD	12	3.8	4	20.6
	5.00 COHP	101	32.3	33.6	54.2
	6.00 COLA	61	19.5	20.3	74.4
	7.00 COS	61	19.5	20.3	94.7
	8.00 RBA	5	1.6	1.7	96.3
	9.00 UC	11	3.5	3.7	100
	Total	301	96.2	100	
Missing	0	12	3.8		
Total		313	100		
parent_class					
Valid	1 on assistance	11	3.5	3.7	3.7
	2 working class	68	21.7	22.6	26.2
	3 lower middle	44	14.1	14.6	40.9
	4 middle	109	34.8	36.2	77.1
	5 upper middle class	61	19.5	20.3	97.3
	Total	8	2.6	2.7	100
Missing	0 no answer	301	96.2	100	
	System	12	3.8		
	Total	313	100		
Total		11	3.5	3.7	3.7
household					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00 traditional	178	56.9	60.3	60.3
	2.00 extended	9	2.9	3.1	63.4
	3.00 blended (step-)	40	12.8	13.6	76.9
	4.00 single father	7	2.2	2.4	79.3
	5.00 single mother	61	19.5	20.7	100
	Total	295	94.2	100	
Missing	0	18	5.8		
Total		313	100		

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
education mother					
Valid	1 no HS degree	7	2.2	2.3	2.3
	2 HS degree	85	27.2	27.9	30.2
	3 some college	26	8.3	8.5	38.7
	4 Associate	53	16.9	17.4	56.1
	5 Baccalaureate	83	26.5	27.2	83.3
	6 Graduate/professional	42	13.4	13.8	97
	7 Doctoral	9	2.9	3	100
	Total	305	97.4	100	
Missing	System	8	2.6		
Total		313	100		
education father					
Valid	1 no HS degree	22	7	7.4	7.4
	2 HS degree	109	34.8	36.7	44.1
	3 some college	37	11.8	12.5	56.6
	4 Associate	23	7.3	7.7	64.3
	5 Baccalaureate	61	19.5	20.5	84.8
	6 Graduate/professional	33	10.5	11.1	96
	7 Doctoral	12	3.8	4	100
	Total	297	94.9	100	
Missing	System	16	5.1		
Total		313	100		
First generation student					
Valid	no	225	71.9	71.9	71.9
	yes	88	28.1	28.1	100
	Total	313	100	100	
urban					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00 rural	69	22	23.5	23.5
	2.00 small-town	130	41.5	44.2	67.7
	3.00 small city	75	24	25.5	93.2
	4.00 large city	19	6.1	6.5	99.7
	Total	294	93.9	100	
Missing	System	20	6.1		

Total		313	100		
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
State residence					
Valid	.00 not given	25	8	8	8
	1.00 WV	232	74.1	74.1	82.1
	2.00 adjacent northern	24	7.7	7.7	89.8
	3.00 adjacent southern	13	4.2	4.2	93.9
	4.00 other not adjacent	15	4.8	4.8	98.7
	5.00 international	4	1.3	1.3	100
	Total	313	100	100	
Religion respondent					
Valid	1 Evangelical	102	32.6	33.8	33.8
	2 Charismatic	10	3.2	3.3	37.1
	3 Mainline Protestant	23	7.3	7.6	44.7
	4 Nondenom Christian	39	12.5	12.9	57.6
	5 Catholic	18	5.8	6	63.6
	6 Other Spiritualist	31	9.9	10.3	73.8
	7 None	71	22.7	23.5	97.4
	8 Other Religion	8	2.6	2.6	100
	Total	302	96.5	100	
Missing	System	11	3.5		
Total		313	100		
Respondent religiosity					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	.00 not important	81	25.9	26.3	26.3
	1.00 important	112	35.8	36.4	62.7
	2.00 very important	115	36.7	37.3	100
	Total	308	98.4	100	
Missing	System	5	1.6		
Total		313	100		
Family religion					
Valid	.00 different from parents	110	35.1	35.1	35.1
	1.00 same as mother	32	10.2	10.2	45.4
	2.00 same as father	13	4.2	4.2	49.5
	3.00 same as both	158	50.5	50.5	100
	Total	313	100	100	

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Political identity					
Valid	1 other liberal	46	14.7	14.9	14.9
	2 democrat	72	23	23.4	38.3
	3 moderate	51	16.3	16.6	54.9
	5 republican	61	19.5	19.8	74.7
	6 other conservative	6	1.9	1.9	76.6
	7 dont care	71	22.7	23.1	99.7
	Total	308	98.4	100	
Missing	System	6	1.6		
Total		313	100		
	Total	355	100	100	
Frequency of attending to news					
Valid	1.00 never	38	12.1	12.5	12.5
	2.00 monthly	21	6.7	6.9	19.5
	3.00 2-3 times/month	35	11.2	11.6	31
	4.00 once/week	44	14.1	14.5	45.5
	5.00 2-3 times/week	82	26.2	27.1	72.6
	6.00 Daily	83	26.5	27.4	100
	Total	303	96.8	100	
Missing	System	10	3.2		
Total		313	100		
Job hours					
Valid	.00 none	104	33.2	38.8	38.8
	1.00 1 thru10	15	4.8	5.6	44.4
	2.00 11 thru 20	75	24	28	72.4
	3.00 21 thru 30	46	14.7	17.2	89.6
	4.00 30+	28	8.9	10.4	100
	Total	268	85.6	100	
Missing	System	45	14.4		
Total		313	100		

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Study hours					
Valid	.00 none	9	2.9	3.1	3.1
	1.00 1 thru10	195	62.3	66.3	69.4
	2.00 11 thru 20	70	22.4	23.8	93.2
	3.00 21 thru 30	16	5.1	5.4	98.6
	4.00 30+	4	1.3	1.4	100
	Total	294	93.9	100	
Missing	System	19	6.1		
Total		313	100		
Took AP					
Valid	1 none at high school	34	10.9	11.8	11.8
	2 available but didnt take	54	17.3	18.8	30.6
	3 1	50	16	17.4	47.9
	4 2	45	14.4	15.6	63.5
	5 3	33	10.5	11.5	75
	6 4+	72	23	25	100
	Total	288	92	100	
Missing	System	25	8.0		
Total		313	100		
Sexual preference					
Valid	0 no answer	12	3.8	3.5	3.5
	1 heterosexual	240	76.7	76.7	80.2
	2 bisexual	32	10.2	10.2	90.4
	3 homosexual	23	7.3	7.3	97.8
	4 other	6	1.9	1.9	99.7
	Total	313	100	100	
People I know bi- or homosexual					
Valid	0 no answer	11	3.5	3.5	3.5
	1 none	18	5.8	5.8	9.3
	2 one	9	2.9	2.9	12.1
	3 few	145	46.3	46.3	58.5
	4 many	130	41.5	41.5	100
	Total	313	100	100	

Table 2. Frequencies for Questions Relevant to Folklore.

You can learn a lot about other cultures by studying their myths and fairy tales					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00 Strongly Disagree	4	1.3	1.4	1.4
	2.00 Disagree	32	10.2	10.8	12.2
	3.00 neutral	3	1	1	13.2
	4.00 Agree	190	60.7	64.2	77.4
	5.00 Strongly Agree	67	21.4	22.6	100
	Total	296	94.6	100	
Missing	System	17	5.4		
Total		313	100		
I liked fairy tales as a child and will tell them to my children					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00 Strongly Disagree	8	2.6	2.8	2.8
	2.00 Disagree	39	12.5	13.4	16.2
	3.00 neutral	1	0.3	0.3	16.6
	4.00 Agree	153	48.9	52.8	69.3
	5.00 Strongly Agree	89	28.4	30.7	100
	Total	290	92.7	100	
Missing	System	23	7.3		
Total		313	100		
I like movies that are based on childhood fairy tales					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00 Strongly Disagree	13	4.2	4.4	4.4
	2.00 Disagree	65	20.8	22.1	26.5
	3.00 neutral	1	0.3	0.3	26.9
	4.00 Agree	169	54	57.5	84.4
	5.00 Strongly Agree	46	14.7	15.6	100
	Total	294	93.9	100	
Missing	System	19	6.1		
Total		313	100		
I look for computer games based on fairy tales and myths from various cultures					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00 Strongly Disagree	59	18.8	20.8	20.8
	2.00 Disagree	127	40.6	44.7	65.5

	3.00 neutral	4	1.3	1.4	66.9
	4.00 Agree	65	20.8	22.9	89.8
	5.00 Strongly Agree	29	9.3	10.2	100
	Total	284	90.7	100	
Missing	System	29	9.3		
Total		313	100		

Fairy tales I heard as a child taught me something about society

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00 Strongly Disagree	13	4.2	4.5	4.5
	2.00 Disagree	74	23.6	25.6	30.1
	3.00 neutral	1	0.3	0.3	30.4
	4.00 Agree	151	48.2	52.2	82.7
	5.00 Strongly Agree	50	16	17.3	100
	Total	289	92.3	100	
Missing	System	24	7.7		
Total		313	100		

Fairy tales can be found hidden throughout pop culture

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00 Strongly Disagree	7	2.2	2.4	2.4
	2.00 Disagree	49	15.7	16.7	19.1
	4.00 Agree	177	56.5	60.4	79.5
	5.00 Strongly Agree	60	19.2	20.5	100
	Total	293	93.6	100	
Missing	System	20	6.4		
Total		313	100		

Studying ancient myths tells us a lot about our own society

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00 Strongly Disagree	10	3.2	3.3	3.3
	2.00 Disagree	78	24.9	25.8	29.1
	3.00 neutral	2	0.6	0.7	29.8
	4.00 Agree	152	48.6	50.3	80.1
	5.00 Strongly Agree	60	19.2	19.9	100
	Total	302	96.5	100	
Missing	System	11	3.5		
Total		313	100		

Table 3. Descriptive Statistics on Demographics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Dev
Transfer student	313	0	1	0.12	0.32
GPA	272	0.6	4	3.254	0.5892
in college HS	313	0	1	0.91	0.29
in college lost job	313	0	1	0	0.057
in college keep job	313	0	1	0	0.057
in college promotion	313	0	1	0.01	0.098
in college change career	313	0	1	0.05	0.214
in college divorce	313	0	1	0.02	0.126
finance loans	313	0	1	0.51	0.501
finance grants	313	0	1	0.49	0.501
finance scholarships	313	0	1	0.61	0.488
finance veterans	313	0	1	0.03	0.158
finance government assistance	313	0	1	0.08	0.276
finance other	313	0	1	0.03	0.167
finance none	313	0	1	0.07	0.251
finance multiple	313	0	5	1.754	0.99366
HH ma	313	0	1	0.92	0.272
HH pa	313	0	1	0.69	0.464
HH step ma	313	0	1	0.04	0.192
HH step pa	313	0	1	0.1	0.299
HH sibs	313	0	1	0.49	0.501
HH step sibs	313	0	1	0.04	0.207
HH other fam	313	0	1	0.07	0.251
HH adopted	313	0	1	0.02	0.137
people support	300	0	4	0.39	0.865
my children	305	0	4	0.1	0.441
Did a grandparent attend college	313	0	1	0.3	0.458
Did a parent attend college	313	0	1	0.6	0.491
Did siblings attend college	313	0	1	0.43	0.496
Did cousins attend college	313	0	1	0.62	0.487
Did aunts/uncles attend college	313	0	1	0.54	0.499
Did friends attend college	313	0	1	0.81	0.394
Did family friends attend college	313	0	1	0.54	0.499
No family college	313	0	1	0.0895	0.28586
Nobody college	313	0	1	0.0256	0.15807
Is a grandparent veteran	313	0	1	0.6	0.491
Is a parent veteran	313	0	1	0.18	0.384

Is sibling veteran	313	0	1	0.05	0.221
Is cousin veteran	313	0	1	0.21	0.411
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Dev
Are aunts/uncles veteran	313	0	1	0.36	0.482
Are friends veteran	313	0	1	0.37	0.484
Are family friends veteran	313	0	1	0.36	0.482
No family veteran	313	0	1	0.2077	0.40629
Nobody veteran	313	0	1	0.1118	0.31565
Is a grandparent active	313	0	1	0.02	0.126
Is a parent active	313	0	1	0.01	0.113
Is sibling active	313	0	1	0.04	0.207
Is cousin active	313	0	1	0.18	0.384
Are aunts/uncles active	313	0	1	0.06	0.233
Are friends active	313	0	1	0.54	0.499
Are family friends active	313	0	1	0.28	0.45
nofamilyactive	313	0	1	0.7412	0.43867
nobodyactive	313	0	1	0.2652	0.44213
Is a grandparent union	313	0	1	0.07	0.261
Is a parent union	313	0	1	0.17	0.373
Is sibling union	313	0	1	0.03	0.158
Is cousin union	313	0	1	0.04	0.207
Are aunts/uncles union	313	0	1	0.1	0.295
Are friends union	313	0	1	0.12	0.331
Are family friends union	313	0	1	0.12	0.32
No family union	313	0	1	0.722	0.44871
Nobody union	313	0	1	0.6102	0.48848
aware vet programs	313	0	1	0.56	0.497
health weights	313	0	1	0.36	0.48
health running	313	0	1	0.36	0.482
health cardio	313	0	1	0.46	0.499
health yoga	313	0	1	0.18	0.384
health meditation	313	0	1	0.14	0.348
health martial art	313	0	1	0.03	0.167
health walk	313	0	1	0.41	0.493
health none	313	0	1	0.17	0.378
health practice	313	0	7	1.9393	1.44098

Table 4. Descriptive Statistics of Responses.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
You can learn a lot about other cultures by studying their myths and fairy tales	296	1	5	3.9595	0.8897
I liked fairy tales as a child and will tell them to my children	290	1	5	3.9517	1.04786
I like movies that are based on childhood fairy tales	294	1	5	3.5782	1.12632
I look for computer games based on fairy tales and myths from various cultures	284	1	5	2.5704	1.31798
Fairy tales I heard as a child taught me something about society	289	1	5	3.5225	1.17571
Fairy tales can be found hidden throughout pop culture	293	1	5	3.7986	1.02556
Studying ancient myths tells us a lot about our own society	302	1	5	3.5762	1.16674

Appendix A.

Survey Consent

You are invited to participate in a research project entitled “Capstone Survey,” designed to compile a wide range of data from Marshall students. The survey is being conducted by students in a Sociology and Anthropology Capstone class of Marty Laubach of Marshall University.

This survey asks you to fill out the non-identifying questionnaire concerning your basic background, attitudes, and perceptions. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Your replies will be anonymous, so do not put your name anywhere on the instrument. Participation is voluntary and if you choose not to answer any or all questions, you can submit the partially or completely blank form. When you submit the form, please place it in the closed box with the slit on the top so that nobody can see your responses. Submitting this survey form indicates your consent for use of the answers you supply.

If you have any questions about the study you may contact Dr Marty Laubach at (304) 696-2798. If you have any questions concerning your rights as a research participant, please contact the Marshall University Office of Research Integrity at (304) 696-7320.

By completing and returning this survey, you are also confirming that you are 18 years of age or older.

You may keep this copy of this consent form for your records.

Age 18-20 21-24 25-29 30+	Gender id: Trans? Male - Agender - Fem	Race (circle all that apply) White – African Am – Asian Am – Native Am – Other – International		
Transfer student: Y N	GPA:	Major:		
Class: Fr – So – Jr – Sr	Switched majors: 0—1—2+	College: CAM-COB-COEPD-COHP-COLA-RBA-COS-CITE-UC		
I am in college because: out of high school—lost job—keep job—get promotion—change career—kids gone—divorce				
Financial aid I receive: loans—grants—scholarships—veterans benefits—government assistance—other—none				
The parent(s) I lived with are: on assistance—working class—lower middle—middle—upper middle—upper class				
I mostly grew up with: mother—father—step mother—step father—siblings—step siblings—other family—adopted				
Highest education: Mother Not HS – HS – technical – Assoc – Bac – Grad – Doctor		Highest education: Father Not HS – HS – technical – Assoc – Bac – Grad – Doctor		
Home: rural—small town—small city—large city		State residence: WV– KY– OH– VA– PA– NC– other– international		
<u>Religion</u> 1 Evangelical (e.g. Baptist, Church of Christ, Faith Christian) 2 Charismatic (e.g. Pentecostal, Holiness, Assembly of God) 3 Mainline protestant (e.g. Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal) 4 Non-denominational Christian 5 Catholic 6 Spiritual but no organized religion (e.g. New Age, NeoPagan, Native American) 7 None 8 Other (e.g. Muslim, Hindu)		Me Me Me Me Me Me Me Me	Father Father Father Father Father Father Father Father	Mother Mother Mother Mother Mother Mother Mother Mother
How important is religion: (0= not important, 1=somewhat important 2= very important)		<u>To Me</u> 0—1—2	<u>Father</u> 0—1—2	<u>Mother</u> 0—1—2
Extracurricular groups I am involved in college? 0—1—2—3—4—5+		In high school: 0—1—2—3—4—5+		
Political identity: other liberal—democrat—moderate—republican—other conservative—don't care				
I attend to news: Daily—2-3 times/week—once/week—2-3 times/month—monthly— never				
Average hours per week worked in job:		Average hours per week studying:		
Number of people I help support: 0—1—2—3 +		Number of children I have : 0—1—2—3 +		
Took college prep, AP, dual credit courses: (none at my high school)—(available but I didn't take)—1—2—3—4+				
Sexual preference: Hetero – bisexual – homosex – other		People I know bi- or homosexual: none—one—few—many		
People I know who attended college: grandparent—parent—brother/sister—cousin—aunt/uncle—friend—family friend				
People I know are military veterans: grandparent—parent—brother/sister—cousin—aunt/uncle—friend—family friend				
People I know are current military: grandparent—parent—brother/sister—cousin—aunt/uncle—friend—family friend				
People I know in labor unions: grandparent—parent—brother/sister—cousin—aunt/uncle—friend—family friend				
My military status: None—Guard—Reserve—ROTC—active—vet		I am aware of veteran programs on campus: Yes—No		
Circle each you do often: weights—running—cardio—yoga—meditation—martial art—walk 1 mile—none of these				

<i>How often do you</i>	<i>Often</i>	<i>Some- times</i>	<i>Rare</i>	<i>Never</i>
Play amateur sports	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Play role-playing game at gathering of friends/group (e.g. D&D, LARP)	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Visited a public library since I came to Marshall	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Preserve foods by canning, smoking, or other methods	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Drink alcoholic beverages	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Post messages about people or activities that should be publically shamed	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Use condoms when I engage in sexual activity	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Go out to a bar/dance club	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Get help from librarians at Marshall	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Use Marshall's free tutoring system	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Visited a public library before I came to college	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Stay inside with computer games or social media instead of going out	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Go hunting or fishing	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Play online multiplayer computer games (e.g. World of Warcraft)	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Find myself "food insecure," unsure that I will have enough to eat for the day	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Give what a waitress or waiter would consider a "good tip"	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Collect artifacts like arrowheads	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Learned life skills people used before modernization and industrialization	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Engage in sport fan activity (tailgate, game parties around the TV)	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Do outdoor activities	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Am sexually active	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Engage in social media activity (e.g. facebook, twitter, snapchat, 4chan)	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Use the MU transit system	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Go to restaurants that are not "fast food"	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Engage in non-sport fandom activity (e.g. bands, e-games, cosplay)	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Attend or host a private party at someone's house/apartment	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Play collectable card games (e.g. Magic: The Gathering, Pokemon)	Often	Some	Rare	Never
Post on social media defenses of friends you feel are being attacked	Often	Some	Rare	Never
I make time for myself to reflect inwardly	Often	Some	Rare	Never
<i>Circle your level of agreement for each statement:</i>	<i>Strong agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Dis- agree</i>	<i>Strong disagree</i>
I am as willing to shame people I know online as strangers for wrongdoing	SA	A	D	SD
The faculty here at Marshall are mostly very open and helpful	SA	A	D	SD
I should not have to take classes that are not part of my major	SA	A	D	SD
It's crazy for people to spend real money for items in computer games	SA	A	D	SD
I fact-check online accusations against anyone before reposting	SA	A	D	SD

<i>Circle your level of agreement for each statement:</i>	<i>Strong agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Dis-agree</i>	<i>Strong disagree</i>
I tip a regular percent or amount unless the service or meal is really bad	SA	A	D	SD
Studying ancient myths tells us a lot about our own society	SA	A	D	SD
I tip higher for celebrations than just regular meals	SA	A	D	SD
Unions have declined because government and big businesses hurt them	SA	A	D	SD
I ensure a server gets a good tip even if someone else picks up the check	SA	A	D	SD
I came to college knowing what job I want when I leave	SA	A	D	SD
I would prefer restaurants pay a living wage than have servers rely on tips	SA	A	D	SD
Public libraries are no longer useful in the internet age	SA	A	D	SD
People should have artifact collections (arrowheads) analyzed by professionals	SA	A	D	SD
I am likely to leave female servers a higher tip than male servers	SA	A	D	SD
Sometimes I feel society could collapse and I would have to care for myself	SA	A	D	SD
I have life skills to offer a group if society collapsed	SA	A	D	SD
It is better for the servers if I tip in cash rather than on a card	SA	A	D	SD
Fairy tales can be found hidden throughout pop culture	SA	A	D	SD
I leave my waiter/waitress a tip based on their appearance	SA	A	D	SD
Sometimes it is OK if species die off for people to have jobs	SA	A	D	SD
I support the coal companies doing what they need to for job creation	SA	A	D	SD
I prefer e-books to physical copies of books	SA	A	D	SD
It was easy to find help when I was confused about issues at Marshall	SA	A	D	SD
I would be willing to share knowledge of family remedies with outsiders	SA	A	D	SD
Handmade items are generally better quality than factory made items	SA	A	D	SD
The foreign language requirements hindered my interest in liberal arts majors	SA	A	D	SD
Despite school and other stresses, I am generally happy and healthy	SA	A	D	SD
It is easier to keep with healthy practices with a group setting	SA	A	D	SD
I feel less responsible to ensure the server gets a good tip if I am in a group	SA	A	D	SD
Unions hurt workers more than help them	SA	A	D	SD
I am being treated like a good and valued person by admin at Marshall	SA	A	D	SD
I would like to learn how to survive off the grid	SA	A	D	SD
I am being treated like a good and valued person by teachers at Marshall	SA	A	D	SD
I leave a smaller tip if the food takes too long or is cooked incorrectly	SA	A	D	SD
I expect most public figures to turn out to be hypocrites on some issue	SA	A	D	SD
People who work with their hands should be given more respect	SA	A	D	SD
I have been criticized by family or friends for spending too much time online	SA	A	D	SD
Veterans are not treated well by this country	SA	A	D	SD
People who dig or find artifacts (arrowheads) should report finds to authorities	SA	A	D	SD
I would rather buy things made by people close to home	SA	A	D	SD
People who claim to fight for social justice are just pushing their special interest	SA	A	D	SD
I feel better about myself when I participate in a spiritual group	SA	A	D	SD
Online public shaming often goes too far	SA	A	D	SD

<i>Circle your level of agreement for each statement:</i>	<i>Strong agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Dis-agree</i>	<i>Strong disagree</i>
I would rather make things for people than work for a big corporation	SA	A	D	SD
Recent veterans seem more angry than civilians	SA	A	D	SD
I would rather live by hills and hollows than on flat lands	SA	A	D	SD
I base a tip more on server attitude/friendliness than on their efficiency	SA	A	D	SD
I believe I can achieve success in life	SA	A	D	SD
The government is spending too much on the environment	SA	A	D	SD
I am more likely to use a condom with a stranger than an acquaintance	SA	A	D	SD
Mankind is supposed to exercise dominion over the earth	SA	A	D	SD
If I couldn't get to a doctor I would use a home remedy	SA	A	D	SD
For most common problems I prefer home remedies to doctors	SA	A	D	SD
Public libraries offer more than books to their patrons	SA	A	D	SD
I feel better about myself when I exercise with a group	SA	A	D	SD
America is letting in too many immigrants	SA	A	D	SD
I am more likely to use a condom when sober than when intoxicated	SA	A	D	SD
The government spends too much on veterans' benefits	SA	A	D	SD
I like movies that are based on childhood fairy tales	SA	A	D	SD
I could survive well by myself off the societal grid	SA	A	D	SD
I would get better grades if teachers did a better job of teaching	SA	A	D	SD
I liked fairy tales as a child and will tell them to my children	SA	A	D	SD
I look for computer games based on fairy tales and myths from various cultures	SA	A	D	SD
Recent veterans have difficulty adjusting to civilian life	SA	A	D	SD
It is morally acceptable to sell artifacts (arrowheads) to collectors	SA	A	D	SD
Most of the news I see on my social media is trustworthy	SA	A	D	SD
I fact-check material I see online	SA	A	D	SD
I would rather vote for a hypocrite from my party than any opposite candidate	SA	A	D	SD
I will tell a server if my meal is not satisfactory	SA	A	D	SD
You can learn a lot about other cultures by studying their myths and fairy tales	SA	A	D	SD
Appalachian music and crafts are special and should be preserved	SA	A	D	SD
It is a valuable use of social media to shame public hypocrites	SA	A	D	SD
I use condoms every time I engage in sexual activity	SA	A	D	SD
Fairy tales I heard as a child taught me something about society	SA	A	D	SD
The math requirements hindered my interest in science majors	SA	A	D	SD
I will have to move away from Appalachia for a job in my field	SA	A	D	SD
I look for friends in groups that emphasize spirituality, health, or nature	SA	A	D	SD
I have improved home remedies I was taught (e.g. ingredients, methods)	SA	A	D	SD
Spiritual/religious practices are important aspects of my well-being	SA	A	D	SD
I am more likely to use a condom with someone from another school	SA	A	D	SD
I want to work in a unionized job when I graduate	SA	A	D	SD
I would pay to get skills if I could avoid laboring through learning and practice	SA	A	D	SD