**Myths/Legends**

**What to Compare / Contrast**

**nature motifs** (gardens, seasons, trees of life, forest guardians)

**symbols**: serpents, trees, seeds, the pomegranate, mistletoe, etc.

**relations**:of humans to god(s), of humans to nature, of god(s) to nature

**archetypes**: (characters): tricksters, heroes, villains, donors, helpers and hinderers, etc.

(deities): underworld gods, fertility gods, mother goddesses, sky gods, thunder gods

**actions**: descent / ascent to underworld, heroes' journeys, struggles for power

**human attitudes**: towards death, underworld, nature, deities, power

**Good Questions to Ask about Myths**

how and why are beings and natural forces are created?

how do good and evil enter the world ("fall")?

what makes deities revered or special, what are deities' attitudes to humans, nature?

how do similar motifs take on different meanings in different stories, contexts?

outcomes: who gets what at the ends of stories and why?

what do you think the story says about the relations between gods and humans?