**LITERARY TERMS – UNIT 1**

**\*\*\* FOLKLORE/FOLKTALE** – based on a particular culture; all the traditions, customs, and stories that are passed along by word of mouth in a culture; purpose is to keep the past alive and introduce young people to the history, beliefs and religions of their societies; used to entertain; not meant to be wholly truthful (exaggerated character traits); author usually unknown, could have many variations of the tale

**FAIRY TALE** – a simple children’s story about magical creatures and fantastic forces; a story in which improbable events lead to a happy ending; can also have animals as characters; teaches a lesson OR attempts to rationalize evil in the world; can be more than one version; has **ARCHETYPES** (character, situation or symbol). An archetype is a reoccurring motif or pattern that is typical of a particular person, place, or thing.

**FABLE** – a fictitious story or tale, intended to instruct some useful truth or to amuse; usually has animals (w/ human traits) as some of the characters; has a moral

**LEGEND** – fictional stories, has some historical truth at the heart of it, heroes perform great deeds with their strength and intelligence. Exaggeration involved in retelling their deeds; heroes often give up their dreams of happiness to help others.

**URBAN LEGEND** – a modern story of obscure origin and with little or no supporting evidence that spreads spontaneously in varying forms and often has elements of humor, moralizing, or horror; circulates as truth, especially supposedly it involves someone vaguely related or known to the teller (friend of a friend of cousin’s sister, etc.); more recent than regular legends

**MYTH --**