I. The Characteristics of Traditional Stories: Myths, Legends, Epics, and Tales (p. 640)

a. **Myth** - a traditional story that was created to explain the mysteries of the universe.
   - Often explains how something connected with humans or nature came to be.
   - Reveals the consequences of both good and bad behavior.
   - Features gods or other beings who have supernatural powers as well as certain flaws.

b. **Legends** - a story passed down through many generations that is believed to be based on real people and events.
   - Tells about a hero or heroine that has unusual powers.
   - Focuses on the hero or heroine’s struggle to defeat a powerful force.
   - Highlights a positive quality or way of behaving.

c. **Epic** - a long narrative poem often written in formal language that tells about a series of quests undertaken by a great hero.
   - Follows a quest or journey of a hero who has incredible strength and courage.
   - Focuses on the hero’s character traits.
   - Features hero’s tasks such as battles in which the hero is tested.

d. **Fable** - a brief story that teaches a lesson or a moral about human nature.
   - Usually includes animal characters that stand for specific human qualities such as kindness or dishonesty.
   - Has a moral that is directly stated at the end or indirectly communicated through what happens in the fable.

e. **Tall Tale** - a humorously exaggerated story about impossible events.
   - Stars a hero or heroine who is larger than life who is bigger, stronger, and even louder than an ordinary person.
   - Uses exaggeration to emphasize the abilities or achievements of the hero or heroine.