**Myth vs. Legend**

***Characteristics of a Myth:***

It usually explains an aspect of the world or expresses a cultural belief. It sometimes involves supernatural episodes to explain cosmic forces and the natural order.

Regardless of the culture in which they originate, myths are generally concerned with the same themes and motifs; creation, divinity, the significance of life and death, natural phenomena, and the adventures of mythical heroes and heroines. It is generally written in chronological (time) sequence. The setting is usually the distant, mythological past.

***Characteristics of a Legend:***

A narrative such as a story, song or verse, or ballad handed down from the past and often conveying the lore of a culture. These stories are often based on some kernel of truth. The hero or heroine may have been a real person, or the event in the legend really may have happened. But as they are passed down, storytellers exaggerate aspects of the story, so they often end up to be more fiction than fact.
It is distinguished from myth by its closer relation to historical fact than to the supernatural. The hero or heroine may have been a real person, or the event in the legend really may have happened. The earliest legends recounted the lives of the saints. Some examples: Paul Bunyan, Davy Crocket etc.

**Task**: After you have carefully read the two selections, decide which one is a legend and which one is a myth or in what ways they may interlay into one another. In order to figure this out, create a Venn diagram to compare “The Star Brides” and “Steel Drivin’ Man.” Label one circle myth and the other legend. Look at both stories and decide which elements from each story would fall under myth, and which would fall under legend. Some of the characteristics of myths and legends may be similar; these would be placed in the center of the diagram.