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Describe a Setting

Choose a setting that you're familiar with (the beach, your city street, the desert, etc.) and use sensory language to describe 5-10 features of that place.

Setting:_____

What plants and animals can be found in this place? Use sensory language to describe these details. List at least 5-10 items. Then, put a ☆ next to at least 3 of the details you'd like to connect to the character you'll develop later.

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Character-O-Matic

Answer the questions below to create the main character of your superstition and urban legend.

What is your setting?

Describe the important physical features of your character.

What 3 things does your character want?

1.

2.

3.

Choose a creature or a plant found in your setting that could become the main character of your urban legend.

What fear does your character represent? What do humans think will happen if they encounter your character?

Give your character a name.

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Create Your Superstition

Now that you have your setting and your character, answer the questions below to create your superstition. Examples are provided.

What is a superstition that is tied to your setting and could be explained by your character?
Example: It's bad luck to be on the beach at night because a giant sea monster rises from the water and roams the beach looking for food—it's favorite food is fish.

What backstory could you create to explain this superstition?
Example: In the beach town, fisherman leave cages in the water overnight, to try and maximize their catch. They are never successful, but they don't know why. They started blaming a giant sea monster because the sound of the waves hitting the shore reminded them of a sea monster's giant footsteps.

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Urban Legend

Combine your character, setting, and superstition together to create your urban legend. There are tips below to help you get started. Continue in your writing journal if you need more space.

Tips for writing an urban legend:

- **Choose a tone.** Urban legends can be spooky or silly, depending on the superstition you created. Choose appropriate words and phrases to convey the tone you're going for.
- **Connect to the natural world**. Think about the setting you chose and pull from the sensory details of that place. Remember the sea monster example?
- **Explain the unexplainable.** Remember that urban legends are a tool used to explain the unknown, to help humans find comfort during anxious times.

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Urban Legend, Cont'd

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