NATIVE AMERICAN LITERATURE

Literary History
Native American Mythology

- **Oral Tradition**
  - Anonymous, traditional story that explains a natural phenomenon, an aspect of human behavior, or a mystery of the universe

- **Myth**
  - Function: many believed the emphasized a strong spiritual bond between the Creator, humanity, and the entire natural world.
  - Emphasized that it was the duty of human beings to maintain a balance within the natural world
  - Creation Myths: how the world, beings came to exist
  - Origin Myths: explain natural phenomena: stars, moons, beliefs and customs.
Native American Mythology

- **Archetypes**
  - A symbol, story pattern or character type that is found in the literature of many cultures.
  - Ex: Children with opposite qualities, born under the same parents
  - Iroquois woman gives birth to twins: one is good, the other is evil
  - Explains the struggle between light vs. dark, and order vs. chaos.
Native American Mythology

- **Tricksters:**
  - Rebels who defy authority and frequently cause trouble, but they are also clever and creative figures who can unexpectedly reveal wisdom
  - Ex: A Native American myth is the coyote was brought here to create death because he realized the world would be too crowded if people lived forever.
Based on context clues, word choice and literary elements, what characteristics can be inferred about the Cherokee tribe? Find textual evidence to support your answers.

How does the author create a sequence of events within the story, and how does this create Mooney’s style?

What archetypes are present in the story? Use textual evidence to support.

What characteristics of Native American Mythology are incorporated within the text? Use textual support.
The “Art” of Storytelling

- Oral traditions for Native Americans was an expressive art form and literary movement.
- Your assignment is to develop a VOICE/ personal perspective about BHS through art.
- Your image should reflect a positive experience or image that tells a story through artistic expression. Your image is due by tomorrow.