FABLES,
ALLEGORIES,
PARABLES
AND MYTHS
Fables

A fable is a short story, often featuring animals with human traits, to which writers attach morals or explanations.
The Tortoise and the Hare
Allegory

An allegory is a story in which people, things, and actions represent an idea or generalization about life; allegories often have a strong moral lesson.
Parable

A parable is a brief, succinct story, in prose or verse, that illustrates a moral or religious lesson. It differs from a fable in that fables use animals, plants, inanimate objects, and forces of nature as actors while parables generally are stories featuring human actors or agents.
The Parable of the Good Samaritan
Myths

Myths are stories, either short or long, that are often associated with religion and philosophy and with various races and cultures. They embody the social and cultural values of the civilization during which they were written.
The Valkyrie