

Fables, Tall Tales, & Folk Tales Book Project

Due: Friday, April 25



This month, you will read three fables or tall tales. You will then select your favorite fable or tall tale to use for this project.

Fables: In a fable, characters are animals that talk and act like people. They are usually short stories. They contain a lesson or moral about life.

Tall Tales: In tall tales, the characters contain superhuman traits (Paul Bunyan). Tall tales explain how something in nature came to be (Grand Canyon). They often contain hyperbole (gross exaggerations) and similes (a figure of speech which use the words “like” or “as” to compare things).

Folk Tales: Folk tales are stories told by people and are passed down from generation to generation. People explained how things came to be the way they are and explained history through folk tales. They come from all over the world.

Examples:

- **Fables** by Arnold Lobel
- **The Little Red Ant and the Great Big Crumb** by Shirley Climo (Mexican fable)
- **Seven Blind Mice** by Ed Young
- **Squids Will Be Squids** by Jon Scieszka
- **Frog Prince Continued** by Jon Scieszka
- **The Quiltmaker's Gift** by Jeff Brumbeau
- **American Tall Tales** by Mary Pope Osborne
- **My Father's Dragon** by Ruth Stiles Gannett
- **Paul Bunyan and Other Tall Tales** by Jane B. Mason
- **Trojan Horse: How the Greeks Won the War** by Emily Little
- **The Korean Cinderella** by Shirley Climo
- **The Persian Cinderella** by Shirley Climo
- **D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths** by Ingri & Edgar Parin D'Aulaire
- **Larger Than Life** by Robert D. San Souci
- **Aesop's Fables** by Jerry Pinkney
- **Johnny Appleseed** retold by Steven Kellogg
- **Mike Fink** retold by Steven Kellogg
- **Paul Bunyan** retold by Steven Kellogg
- **Pecos Bill** retold by Steven Kellogg
- **Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind Crockett** retold by Steven Kellogg



These are not the only book choices. There are many books available in the Estes Library and there is a great selection available at the Chapel Hill Public Library on Estes Drive.

Project Guidelines:

1. Choose 3 tall tales, folk tales, or fables that are at a “just right” reading level. Even though many tall tales and fables are fairly short, try and find three that challenge you as a reader.
2. After selecting your favorite, you will write a play and make puppets for each of your characters.
 - a. **Play:** You will write a play script in your own words retelling the story you selected. The play must include the elements listed on the following page.
 - b. **Puppets:** You will create puppets, which creatively and accurately represent each character. You will also need props and a backdrop (scenery) to display your puppets.
 - c. **Play and Puppets:** For extra points, you can make puppets and put on a puppet show, acting out the story from the play you wrote.

Play Script:

1. You will need to type or neatly write a script for your play.
2. Script format must include these elements:
 - a. A **title, genre, author's name, and your name**
 - b. A list of **characters** with a brief 1-2 sentence description of each character.
 - c. A 3-5 sentence description of the **setting**, including time and place.
 - d. A 3-5 sentence summary of the **plot**, which includes a problem and a solution, as well as the moral or lesson.
 - e. The **body** of your script will include what the characters are saying (the dialogue). Skip a line when one person stops talking. Start a new line on your paper whenever a new character speaks. Underline the speaker's name and use a colon. Write or type only on one side of the paper.
 - i. Your script should also include stage directions. They can fall in between the character's dialogue, to show what characters are doing, when they are not talking. If you type your script, the stage directions should be italicized. (EX: *Maria begins to search for her frisbee. She looks up and sees a strange creature holding the toy*)
3. Use the planning sheet as a rough draft, but the final draft will need to be typed or neatly handwritten on a separate sheet(s) of paper.

Puppets & Backdrop:

1. You will need to choose how you will make your puppets. You can make the puppets out of tongue depressors, socks, clothespins, spoons, paper towel rolls or whatever materials you can think of. If you need materials that you cannot find at home, please let Ms. Coleman know.
2. The puppets should include physical features (hair color, skin color, noticeable markings like scars, etc) and/or clothing that accurately represent their character.
3. You will also need to include a backdrop to represent the setting. If you have more than one setting, you can create more than one backdrop or a backdrop that easily changes. How you make the backdrop is up to you, but some ideas might be a poster or shoebox.
4. Websites with ideas on how to make puppets/backdrops:
 - a. <http://familyfun.go.com/>
 - b. <http://42explore.com/puppet.htm>
 - c. <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/puppets/>

Puppet Show (Extra Points):

1. You will perform your play, using your puppets and the script you wrote.
2. During the performance, speak loudly and with expression, using different voices and accents, to make each of your characters (puppets) come to life.
3. Make sure you are also comfortable with how the puppets move around.
 - a. Puppet movement should be relaxed and appropriate. If you need someone to help with the performance, we can talk about this ahead of time.

Planning Sheet

Title: _____

Genre: _____

Original Story Written By (Book Author): _____

Play Written By (Your Name): _____

Characters:

_____ : _____

_____ : _____

_____ : _____

Setting: _____

Plot: _____

Stage Directions: _____

Body:
_____ : _____

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