



We Are Storytellers

Exploring family stories,
and multicultural folktales,
fairy tales, and myths



Books and activities
for children ages 6–10 years old

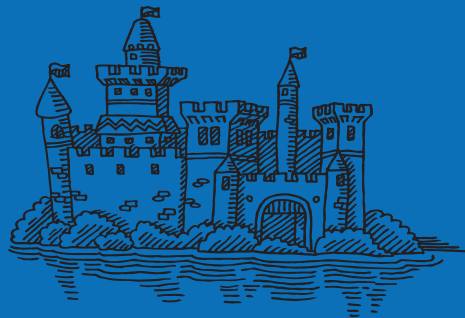


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Exploring Fairy Tales

- Recommended children's books
- Writing activities
- Drawing, mask-making and other creative activities
- Ideas for sharing children's stories and writing
- Templates



Folktales

We Are Storytellers

Folktales are stories "of the people" that are passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth. Folktales are found all over the world, in every culture. Have you ever read a [fable](#), [trickster tale](#), or ['pourquoi' story](#)? Those are all different kinds of folktales. They often feature animals that can talk and wisdom about the world that needs to be learned.



Watch this video clip of [children's author Carmen Agra Deedy](#) talk about why folktales matter so deeply.

Many traditional stories share the same powerful themes — the importance of family, kindness, and generosity towards others.

In this second video clip, [Carmen Agra Deedy shares the origins of her picture book, Martina the Beautiful Cockroach](#), a tale that has traveled from Persia to Latin America.

"But the story's the same. It's wonderful, wonderful. So why are these stories wonderful? I think they connect us, that's one of the things. They remind us we're part of one human family, with one narrative that changes clothes — or eggplants — from one place to the other."

The folktale tradition of telling stories out loud remains strong throughout the world. Stories are being heard, retold, remembered, rediscovered.

Learn more about folktales at Start with a Book, by browsing our booklists, kid-friendly websites, apps, and podcasts: [Folktales, Fairy Tales and Myths](#).

Family folktales and stories

With the books and activities on the following pages, we'll look at our own family folktales and family stories.

We'll explore the stories that have been told and re-told in your family for generations. Some of them remain true and believable to this day. Others may sound more like [tall tales](#) as the stories have been [embellished](#) over the years to make the characters more heroic or the stories more entertaining!

We'll also give kids a chance to share stories about their own lives that express how they are connected to their families, culture, and community. **We are all storytellers!**

Folktales

We Are Storytellers

In these two video clips, [Family Stories](#) and [Fire Talking](#), children's author Patricia Polacco (*Chicken Sunday*), remembers listening to the elders in her family tell how things were. Now she is the one who passes down family history.

These posts from Reading Rockets talk about the importance of sharing family stories: [Family Stories](#) and [Sharing Family Stories](#).



Get kids thinking

- Tell the kids that folktales started out as oral stories. Over the years they were written down, but we still love to hear them out loud!
- Folktales are about ordinary people, like you and me. They follow a basic beginning-middle-end format. The main character has a problem that needs to be solved by the end of the story. And folktales are often funny!
- Read some folktales together. Look for stories from different parts of the world. You can find a selected list of books on the next page. For more recommended books, visit [Start with a Book: Folktales, Fairy Tales and Myths](#).
- After you read a folktale together, ask the kids about the story. What problem needed to be solved, and how did the characters do it? What part of the story stuck in your memory? Did you learn any new words? Did you learn something about a different part of the world?
- Ask kids if they have any storytellers in their family — a grandparent, aunt or uncle, cousin — or a close family friend who feels like family.
- Can they remember any of the stories they've heard, maybe more than once? This is a great time to let kids share a little bit out loud, to get them ready to dive into the activities here.

Writing activities

Here are two writing and storytelling activities to try after reading folktales together:

- [Exploring Family Stories](#) (see page 5)
- [Who I Am](#) (see page 9)

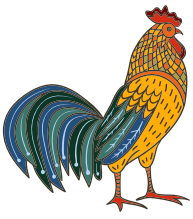


Multicultural Folktales

Selected Children's Books



- **Alone in the Forest** by Gita Wolf and Andrea Anastasio, illustrated by Bhajju Shyam (India)
- **Ashley Bryan's African Tales, Uh-huh** by Ashley Bryan (Africa)
- **Beautiful Blackbird** by Ashley Bryan, illustrations by Petra Mathers (Zambia)
- **The Bossy Gallito / Bossy Gallito** by Lucía González (Cuba)
- **Children of the Dragon** by Sherry Garland, illustrations by Trina Schart Hyman (Vietnam)
- **Golden Tales: Myths, Legends, and Folktales from Latin America** by Lulu Delacre (Latin America)
- **Grandma and the Great Gourd: A Bengali Folktale** by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (India)
- **Horse Hooves and Chicken Feet: Mexican Folktales** by Neil Philip, illustrations by Jacqueline Mair (Mexico)
- **Lady Hahn and Her Seven Friends** by Yumi Heo (Korea)
- **Martina the Beautiful Cockroach** by Carmen Agra Deedy, illustrated by Michael Austin (Cuba)
- **Riding a Donkey Backwards** by Sean Taylor Khayaal Theater Company (Middle East)
- **The People Could Fly** by Virginia Hamilton (American South)
- **Porch Lies** by Patricia McKissack, illustrated by Andre Carrilho (American South)
- **Sitti and the Cats** by Marcia Brown (France)
- **Stone Soup** by Sally Bahous Allen (Palestine)
- **Strega Nona** by Tomie dePaola (Italy)
- **Tales Our Abuelitas Told** by Alma Flor Ada and Isabel Campoy (Latin America)
- **Tikki Tikki Tembo** by Arlene Mosel, illustrated by Blair Lent (China)
- **The Tomten** by Astrid Lindgren (Sweden)



Multicultural Folktales

Selected Children's Books

When the library is closed

Is your public library closed? See if your public library offers [OverDrive](#) where you can borrow and read free ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines on your phone or tablet. All you need is your library card to get access (and check out their [Libby app](#) for Android or iOS phones or tablets).

There are also a number of online services that offer high-quality audiobooks and ebooks: [Audible for Kids](#), [Tales2Go](#), and [Epic!](#).

Here are some ways to explore myths and legends online:

- [Folktales and Stories from Around the World](#): texts of well-known and not-so-well-known stories (American Folklore)
- [Folktales from Around the World](#): historical and geographic adventure (Google Earth Voyager Story)
- [Folktales and Fairy Tales for All](#): audiobooks (Audible)
- [Animated Stories for Kids](#) (August House / Story Cove)
- [Folktales](#) audio storytelling of traditional tales (The Story Home)
- [Animal Stories](#) audio storytelling of traditional tales with text (Storynory)

We Are Storytellers

Exploring Family Stories

Writing activity

For this activity, kids will discover favorite stories from their own families by interviewing a family member from an older generation.

Individual: each child works independently on their interview and story presentation.

Small groups: siblings can work together on their interview and story presentation.

This is a home-based project. For youth programs, the staff can explain the project to parents and let them know how they can assist with the interview.



Supplies

- Notepad or paper, pen or pencil
 - Drawing paper and drawing tools: colored pencils, markers, or watercolors (optional)
 - Smartphone with built-in audio recording feature or other kind of portable recording device; device with a video chat service (optional)
-

Let's get started

Tell the kids that they will be trying to uncover a treasured family story by interviewing a family member. Kids should choose someone from an older generation — parent, aunt or uncle, parent's cousin, grandparent, great-grandparent, or great aunt or great uncle. Kids could also decide to choose an older friend of the family, someone who knows them well.

Ideally, this should be a person that the child can **sit down with in person**. It can be helpful to record the conversation with a smartphone or other portable recording device that the family has. Other "face-to-face" interview options are:

- **Smartphone interview:** capture the conversation with the phone's audio recording feature.
- **Video chat interview:** record the conversation with a video chat service (like Zoom).

Hearing each other's voices is a wonderful part of the interview process. However, kids can also do the interview by **email or regular mail**. Warning: snail mail will require patience!



We Are Storytellers

Exploring Family Stories

Getting ready for the interview

Together as a group, talk about the art of doing a good interview. Tell the kids: you could just jump in right away and ask, "*Can you tell me a great family story?*" But sometimes it's better to get to that question within a longer conversation — it gives kids a chance to learn more about their elders and gives the elders time to reflect on the past.

Kids can come up with their own questions, or use some of the questions we've provided on page 8. **Have the kids practice interviewing** each other with a shorter list of questions before they interview their grown-ups.

Interview day

Have the kids to bring their questions, a pen or pencil, and a notepad or other paper to write down all of the details they will hear about their family stories.

Tell the kids to start the interview by asking their family member to say their name and age. Sometimes the person you're interviewing is shy or quiet and gives a short answer. It can be helpful to then ask, "*Could you tell me more about that?*"

Remind the kids that they are looking for good details to make their stories interesting — things like unusual characters, a colorful setting, unbelievable action, funny expressions, and a satisfying ending.

Next, have the kids give an oral summary of the story and ask if they've left out any colorful or important details. Remind the kids to thank their grown-ups for sharing their family stories.

Writing time

After saying goodbye and offering thanks again for the shared time, the kids will write down their version of the family story. Younger kids who aren't yet writing can dictate their stories to an adult. Encourage the kids to include a drawing of the family member who shared the story, or a character or event from the story. You can remind the kids about the basic parts of any good story:

- Beginning-middle-end format
- The main character has a problem that needs to be solved by the end of the story
- Family stories (like folktales) are often funny or silly or outlandish, so don't forget the humor!



We Are Storytellers

Exploring Family Stories

Simpler activity: A family treasure

This is a simpler alternative to the family interview. The only supplies needed are plain paper or a notepad, pen, and drawing tools (markers, colored pencils, or watercolors). Here, kids will ask a parent or other older relative who lives nearby to share a treasured object that they've kept for years and years. It can be an old cooking pot, a handknit scarf, a charm, a painting or photograph — anything that sparks special memories and a story.

Kids will ask their elders to tell them a story about that object — where it came from and why it is a meaningful part of the family's history.

Kids will capture the oral stories in writing as they are talking with their relatives. Younger kids who aren't yet writing can dictate their stories to an adult. Next, kids will write out a final version of the story and include an illustration of the treasured object.

If a camera is available, kids can take a photograph of their relatives with their objects.

Sharing our work

Once the family stories are written down (and illustrated), gather everyone together in a circle to read their stories out loud. Tell kids that they can be as dramatic as they need to be in telling their stories. If you have a rocking chair or a porch swing ... that can make a great spot for the storyteller!

At the end, kids can add some information about the source of their family story. For example, "And that's exactly what happened, according to my Great Aunt Lou."

Try this!

Story Circle: Family stories are great to share at the next family gathering. Set up a simple storytelling circle or tent outside with blankets and chairs and let the stories begin! Stories at night are great, too — add string lights or lanterns for a theatrical effect.

If you have lots of storytellers in the circle, use a prop like a stone, a stick, or a hat. Whoever has the stone gets to share a story, then passes the stone on to the next storyteller.



We Are Storytellers

Exploring Family Stories

Suggested interview questions (Adapted from [StoryCorps' Great Questions](#))

Start by asking: What is your name and how old are you?

Questions for any family member

- Where did you grow up?
- What was your childhood like?
- Can you share an embarrassing childhood experience?
- Who were your favorite relatives?
- Do you remember any of the stories they used to tell you?
- Can you tell me about someone you'll always remember?
- What do you feel most grateful for in your life?
- Can you share a traveling experience that had an impact on you?

Additional questions for grandparents

- How did you and grandma/grandpa meet?
- What was my mom/dad like growing up?
- Do you remember any songs that you used to sing to her/him? Can you sing them now?
- Was she/he well-behaved?
- What is the worst thing she/he ever did? (that might spark a story ...)

Exploring family heritage

- What is your ethnic background?
- Where is your mom's family from? Where is your dad's family from?
- Have you ever been there? What was that experience like?
- What traditions have been passed down in your family?
- Who were your favorite relatives?
- Do you remember any of the stories they used to tell you?
- What are the classic family stories? Jokes? Songs?

For more reading, writing, and learning resources, visit www.StartWithABook.org





We Are Storytellers Who I Am



Writing activity

For this activity, kids will write short poems that explore their own personal thoughts about who they are and where they came from.

Individual: each child works independently on their poem.

Supplies

- Notepad or paper, pen or pencil
- Drawing paper and drawing tools: colored pencils, markers, or watercolors (optional)

Let's get started

Tell the kids that they will be writing short poems about who they are — their dreams, their fears, [vivid](#) memories, how they're unique, their families, where they're from — anything they want to express.



We Are Storytellers

Who I Am

Adults can look at the **three poem options offered on the following pages**, and select one or more for your kids to try. Explain that they will be using a model to guide their writing. They won't have to think as much about the poem's structure, so they can focus on their ideas and finding the right words to express those ideas. These poems do not need to rhyme.

Encourage the kids to open their minds as they think and write. You might even try some mindfulness breathing exercises before starting on the poems.

Children who speak another language in addition to English can write their poems in their home language, or write them in both languages.

Sharing our work

Once the personal poems are completed, gather everyone together in a circle and invite your young writers to read their poems out loud. Kids can also choose to memorize their poems and present them without notes — in keeping with the oral storytelling tradition. Some kids may not be comfortable sharing their poems in front of others, and that's okay.

Try this!

This Is Me: Encourage the kids to create portraits of themselves to go along with their poems. They can draw their face on a regular-sized sheet of paper. Or they can make a life-sized portrait: have a friend trace around them as they lie down on a big piece of kraft paper, the back side of wrapping paper, or even a few pieces of newspaper taped together. Then they can color in their faces and clothes, if they want to — or write their poem in the torso of the body.

Another option is to have kids make a collage of things that reflect themselves or are mentioned in their poems.





We Are Storytellers

Who I Am

Portrait poem #1

(Adapted from Art Belliveau)

I am (first name)

Son/Daughter of (I've also used brother/sister of...)

Who needs ...

Who loves ...

Who sees ...

Who hates ...

Who fears ...

Who dreams of ...

Who has found poems of

Resident of (I've seen people list here everything from their address to "the small blue green planet third from the sun") ...

(last name)



We Are Storytellers

Who I Am

Portrait poem #2

(Adapted from Art Belliveau)

First section

I am (two special characteristics you have)

I wonder (something you are actually curious about)

I hear (an imaginary sound)

I see (an imaginary sight)

I want (an actual desire)

I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

Second section

I pretend (something you actually pretend to do)

I feel (a feeling about something imaginary)

I touch (an imaginary touch)

I worry (something that really bothers you)

I cry (something that makes you very sad)

I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

Third section

I understand (something you know is true)

I say (something you believe in)

I dream (something you actually dream about)

I try (something you really make an effort about)

I hope (something you actually hope for)

I am (the first line of the poem repeated)



We Are Storytellers Who I Am

"Where I'm From" poem

In this project, kids will write and share an autobiographical poem using George Ella Lyon's 'Where I'm From' poem as the inspiration.

Kids will build their poems by thinking about the people, places, things, and events that makes each of them unique. The template on page 15 may be helpful in guiding kids.

Read the original 'Where I'm From' by Lyon to the kids (see the next page), or let them watch the [video](#) or listen to the [audio](#).

Talk with the kids about the language they hear in the poem. Lyon's poem has some words that may be difficult for kids to understand. Remind them that their poems will be written in *their* words, and that a very powerful and personal poem can be written with simple yet expressive words.

Here are two excerpts from a ['Where I'm From' poem crowd-sourced by NPR](#):

I am from marbles
From empanadas cooking in the street
I am from orchids and mango trees
I am from la torta tres leches and ruana
I am from happy and serious
From hard work and sweat

—

I'm from grit, respect, and discipline.
from big family reunions and endless laughs.
I am from houses never locked
from the projects in Brooklyn
and dominoes in the park
I am from salsa and the car horns blaring

Where I'm From

by George Ella Lyon

I am from clothespins,
from Clorox and carbon tetrachloride.
I am from the dirt under the back porch.

(Black, glistening
it tasted like beets.)

I am from the forsythia bush,
the Dutch elm
whose long gone limbs I remember
as if they were my own.

I am from fudge and eyeglasses,
from Imogene and Alafair.
I'm from the know-it-alls and the pass-it-ons,
from perk up and pipe down.
I'm from He restoreth my soul
with a cottonball lamb
and ten verses I can say myself.

I'm from Artemus and Billie's Branch,
fried corn and strong coffee.
From the finger my grandfather lost to the auger
the eye my father shut to keep his sight.
Under my bed was a dress box
spilling old pictures,
a sift of lost faces
to drift beneath my dreams.
I am from those moments —
snapped before I budded —
leaf-fall from the family tree.

Where I'm From poem template

Adapt the template as needed for younger children. Not all the lines need to be filled in.

Your Name _____

I am from _____

(a specific item from your home)

from _____

(two objects from when you were very young)

I am from _____

(a phrase describing your home)

and _____

(more description of your home)

I am from _____

(a plant, tree or natural object from your neighborhood)

I am from _____

(two objects from when you were very young)

from _____

(two family names or ancestors)

and from _____

(two family traits or characteristics)

from _____

(another family trait or characteristic)

I am from _____

(a religious memory or family tradition)

from _____

(two foods from your family history)

from _____

(a specific event in the life of an ancestor)

and from _____

(another detail from the life of an ancestor)

(a memory or object you had as a child)

I am from the moments... _____

(continue this thought or repeat a line or idea from earlier in the poem)

Exploring Tall Tales

- Recommended children's books
- Writing activities
- Drawing and other creative activities
- Ideas for sharing children's stories and writing
- Writing organizers and templates





Tall Tales

Tall tales are stories that may sound true ... but feature lots of exaggeration and action that is hard to believe! Popular tall tale characters from American folklore include Johnny Appleseed, Pecos Bill, Annie Oakley, Paul Bunyan, Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind Crockett, Davy Crockett, and John Henry.

Tall tales may have their origins around frontier campfires in the 1800s. Perhaps they began as "bragging contests" among the tough pioneers who were exploring the Wild West. And the stories kept getting wilder and wilder as they were retold.

A tall tale is about a larger-than-life hero or heroine with superhuman abilities. Tall tales are often funny and outrageous, where everyday problems are solved in humorous ways. The stories feature exaggerated details to tell about the main character's life and amazing feats of bravery and strength.



Here's how one story describes Paul Bunyan's birth:

It took five giant storks to deliver Paul to his parents. His first bed was a lumber wagon pulled by a team of horses. As a newborn, Paul Bunyan could yell so loud he scared all the fish out of the rivers and streams. His parents had to milk two dozen cows morning and night to keep his milk bottle full, and his mother had to feed him 10 barrels of porridge every two hours to keep his stomach from rumbling and knocking the house down.

Some tall tales are completely make-believe while others are exaggerations of real people and events. For example, some historians say that there was a real John Henry, the African American "steel-driving man" who helped build the railroads after the Civil War. John Chapman, who traveled on foot across the Midwest planting apple trees, became the tall tale hero Johnny Appleseed.

Discover more about tall tales at Start with a Book, by browsing our booklists, kid-friendly websites, apps, and podcasts: [Folktales, Fairy Tales and Myths](#).



Tall Tales

Get kids thinking

- Have you ever read a story that was too crazy to be true? Chances are it could be a tall tale!
- Ask kids if they've ever heard a tall tale. Are there any bigger-than-life characters they can think of? Paul Bunyan? John Henry?
- Read some tall tales together. See a selected list of books on the next page, or visit [Start with a Book: Folktales, Fairy Tales and Myths](#) for more recommended books.
- Talk about the characteristics of tall tales — especially [exaggeration](#) (also called [hyperbole](#)) and humor.
- Talk about the beginning, middle, and end of the tall tales you read together.



Writing activity

For this activity, kids will write an original tall tale about someone in their family or a close family friend.

Individual: each child chooses a family member or family friend and works independently.

Small groups: Siblings can work collaboratively on their family tall tale.

Supplies

- Pencils, pens, and art supplies: colored pencils, markers, crayons
- Drawing paper or construction paper: 8-1/2 x 11 or larger (2 sheets per child)
- Construction paper or cardboard, felt, yarn, and other decorative materials
- Scotch tape, scissors, school glue
- Tall Tale brainstorming worksheet (included in packet)
- Tall Tale sentence frames worksheet (optional, included in packet)



Tall Tales

Selected Children's Books



- **American Tall Tales** by Mary Pope Osborne, illustrations by Michael McCurdy
- **Cut from the Same Cloth: American Women of Myth, Legend and Tall Tale** by Robert San Souci
- **Davy Crockett Saves the World** by Rosalyn Schanzer
- **Dust Devil** by Anne Isaacs, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky
- **Fin M'Coull: The Giant of Knockmany Hill** by Tomie dePaola
- **John Henry** by Julius Lester, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney
- **John Henry: An American Legend** by Ezra Jack Keats
- **Kissimmee Pete and the Hurricane** by Jan Day, illustrated by Janeen Mason
- **Lies and Other Tall Tales** by Zora Neale Hurston, illustrated by Christopher Myers
- **Master Man: A Tall Tale from Nigeria** by Aaron Shepard, illustrated by David Wisniewski
- **Mountain Men: True Grit and Tall Tales** by Andrew Glass
- **Paul Bunyan** by Steven Kellogg
- **Pecos Bill** by Steven Kellogg
- **Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind Crockett** by Steven Kellogg
- **Seed by Seed: The Legend and Legacy of John "Appleseed" Chapman** by Esme Raji Codell
- **Swamp Angel** by Anne Isaacs, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky



Tall Tales

Selected Children's Books

Is your public library closed? See if your public library offers [OverDrive](#) where you can borrow and read free ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines on your phone or tablet. All you need is your library card to get access (and check out their [Libby app](#) for Android or iOS phones or tablets).

There are also a number of online services that offer high-quality audiobooks and ebooks: [Audible for Kids](#), [Tales2Go](#), and [Epic!](#)

Here are some ways to explore myths and legends online:

- [Tall Tales](#): texts of well-known and not-so-well-known stories (American Folklore)
- [Tall Tales Collection](#): illustrated digital book (Epic!)
- [Famous Tall Tales](#): animated videos (Little Cozy Nook)



Tall Tales

Let's get started

Ask kids to think about which family member they each want to write a funny “superhero” kind of story about. Ask: Do you have an uncle who loves to tell stories about his great adventures as a young man? Or a grandmother who really does seem to have superpowers?

Remind the kids that every tall tale has action and a problem (big or little) that needs to be solved. *What problem does your tall tale character have?*

Show the kids how to use the [Tale Tale brainstorming worksheet](#) to jot down their thoughts about the characters, [setting](#) (time and place where the tale happens), the problem or [obstacle](#) that's in the way, and how the problem is solved.

Don't forget to include lots of exagerrated details and funny stuff in that last column — that's an important part of every tall tale! Adults may want to model how to use the brainstorming worksheet with an example of their own family member.

With younger kids, you can guide them in using our [Tall Tale sentence frames worksheet](#) to write out a simple story, and skip the brainstorming, draft, and revision stages. Younger kids who aren't yet writing can dictate their stories to an adult.

Next, it's time to write the tall tale. Tell the kids to use their brainstorming ideas to write a draft on a new sheet of plain paper. Suggest that they read their stories out loud and see if they want to make any changes ([revisions](#)) before carefully writing out a final version on a new sheet of paper.

Option: We've provided a set of decorative templates that kids can use for the final versions of their tall tales. They are included at the end of this packet.

Remind the kids to use [descriptive words](#) and [exaggeration](#) to bring their story to life. For example, instead of, "My aunt had a really big frying pan ..." one could say "My aunt had an enormous frying pan, wider than the Mississippi River ..."

Each child should give their tall tale a descriptive title. Kids can also include an original drawing if they like.



Tall Tales

Sharing our work

Once the tall tales are finished, gather everyone together in a circle to read the stories out loud. Kids can choose to memorize their stories and present them without notes — in keeping with the oral storytelling tradition. Kids can be as dramatic as they like in sharing their tall tales.

Tell kids to share their tall tale with family and friends. They can invite listeners by asking, *"Have you ever heard about the adventures of [insert character name]?"*

Try this!

Perform It: Have kids make a simple prop out of paper, cardboard, or other found materials that will help dramatize their tall tales when read out loud.

Record It: Help kids to record their tall tales on a smart phone (audio or video) and share with their extended families.

Tall Tale Parade: Kids could also pick their favorite Tall Tale character from one of the books you've read together and make a costume with props from everyday materials. If you have a big enough group, put on a parade or "convention" where the characters get together and share their stories orally.





Brainstorming! My Tall Tale

Exaggerations & funny stuff

Character

Who is the hero or heroine?

What special characteristics does he or she have?

Setting

Where and when does your tall tale take place?

What does the place look like?

Plot

What problem does your hero or heroine need to solve?

What obstacles need to be overcome?

How does your character solve the problem and overcome the obstacles?

What adventures happen along the way?

Story Frame

My Tall Tale

To get started: think about the name of your hero and a second character who has a problem that needs to be solved. Who are your two characters? What problem does your hero need to solve?

_____ was the _____ man/woman in
(name of hero) (superlative adjective, such as fastest, smartest, wiliest ...)

the state of _____. Everyone for _____ miles around
(state's name) (number of miles)

knew _____ and loved to tell and retell stories of his/her amazing feats.
(hero's name)

Now one day _____ went to visit _____.
(hero's name) (2nd character's name)

_____ had been having big problems with
(2nd character's name)

(explain the 2nd character's problem)

_____ explained his/her problem. And that was all it took for
(2nd character's name)

_____ to spring into action!
(hero's name)

Story Frame

My Tall Tale

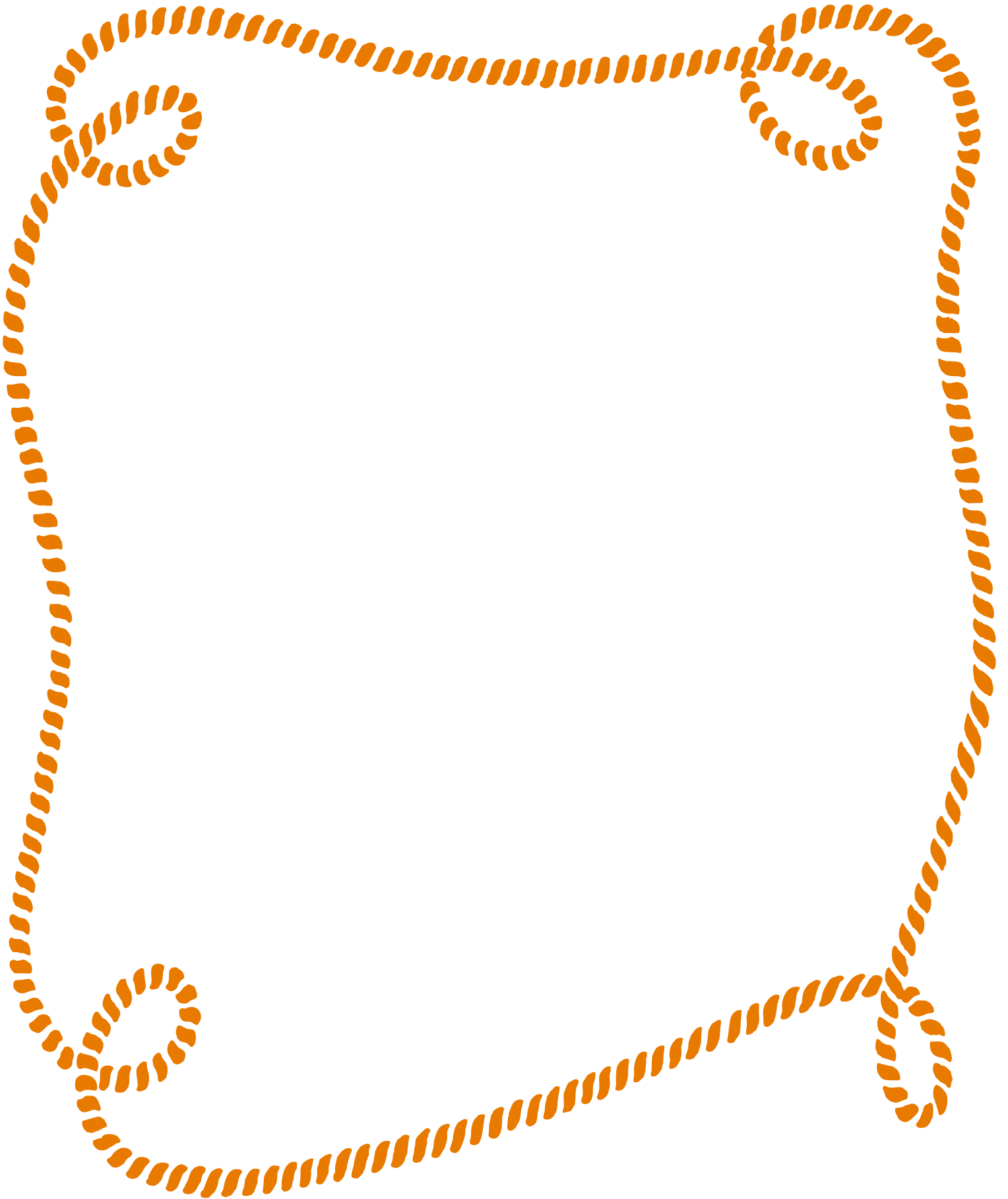
Right away,

(Describe how your hero solved the 2nd character's problem)

_____ problem was solved, and the folks in _____
(2nd character's name) (state)

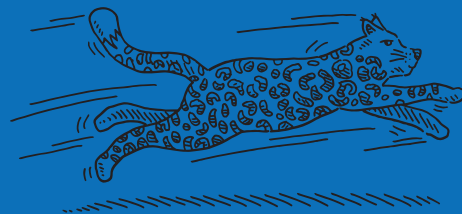
now had a new tale to tell about _____!
(hero's name)

My Tall Tale



Exploring Myths & Legends

- Recommended children's books
- Writing activities
- Drawing, mask-making and other creative activities
- Ideas for sharing children's stories and writing
- Writing organizers and templates





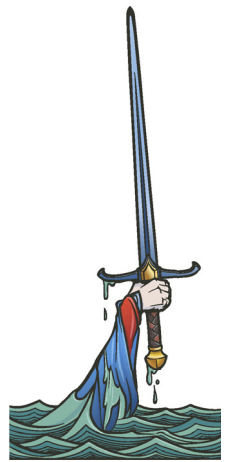
Myths & Legends

[Myths](#) are stories told aloud that were passed down from generation to generation for thousands of years. Myth is from the Greek word, “mythos” — which means “word of mouth” — oral stories shared from person to person.

Myths have helped people from different cultures to make sense of the natural world, before scientific discoveries guided our understanding. Myths explained the reason for an erupting volcano, or thunder and lightning, or even night following day.

Many myths feature [gods, goddesses](#) or humans with [supernatural](#) powers. Kids may be familiar with Zeus, the king of all gods in Greek mythology, who could throw lightning bolts from the sky down to Earth. Myths often include a lesson, suggesting how humans should act.

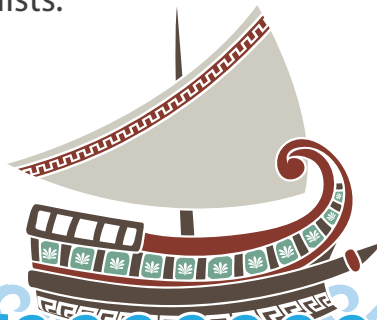
A [legend](#) is a traditional story about a real place and time in the past. Legends are rooted in the truth, but have changed over time and retelling and taken on fictional elements. The heroes are human (not gods and goddesses) but they often have adventures that are larger-than-life. The tales of Odysseus from Ancient Greece and King Arthur from Medieval England are two examples of legends.



Myths and legends can be found throughout the world. Many of these traditional stories feature similar subjects, but express the unique culture and history of the regions where they are from. There are flood myths from India, aboriginal legends from Australia, Taino creation stories from Puerto Rico, the legend of the Chinese zodiac, Norse myths, and many more.



We'll be exploring a certain kind of nature myth or folktale called a [pourquoi tale](#) and helping kids learn to write their own nature myth. There are many Native American pourquoi stories and we've included a selection in one of our booklists.





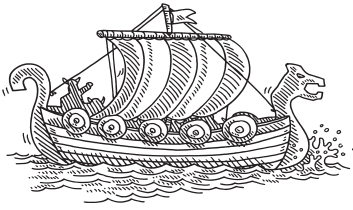
Myths & Legends

Discover more about myths and legends at Start with a Book, by browsing our booklists, kid-friendly websites, apps, and podcasts: [Folktales, Fairy Tales and Myths](#).

Writing activities

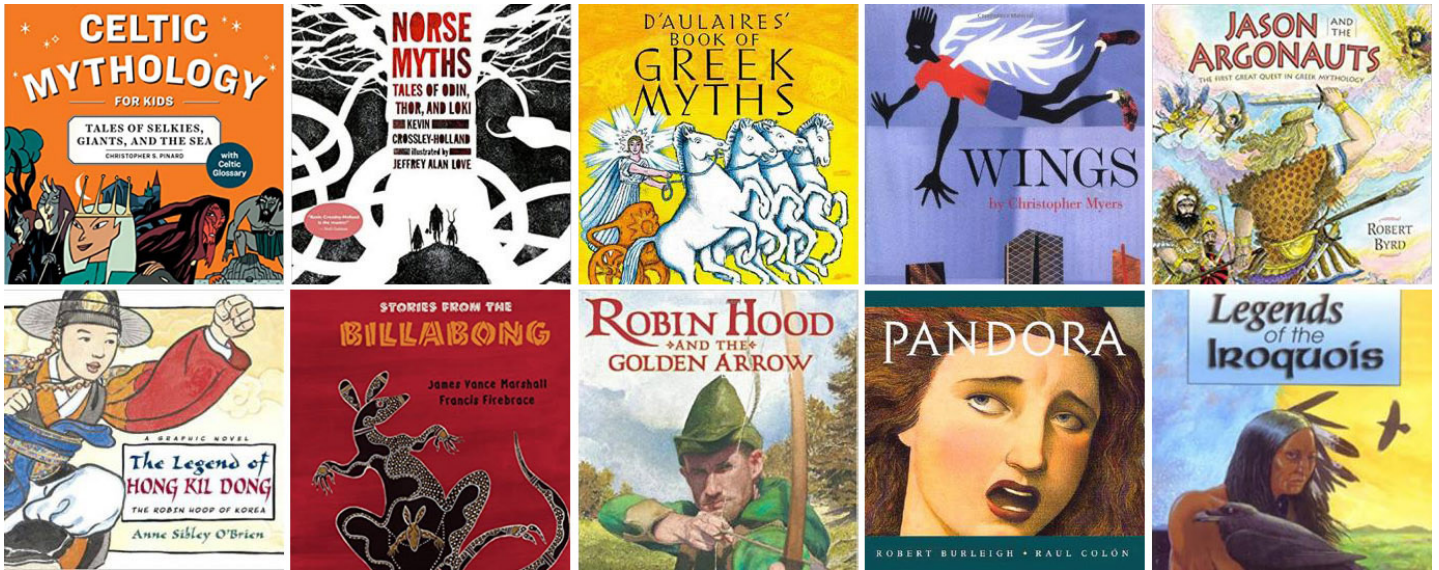
Here are two writing activities to try after reading a selection of myths, legends, and pourquoi tales together:

- **Letter to a Local Hero** (see page 6)
- **Write Your Own Pourquoi Tale** (see page 9)

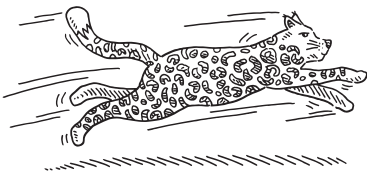


Myth & Legends

Selected Children's Books



- **The Adventures of Thor the Thunder God** by Lis Lunge-Larsen, illustrated by Jim Madsen
- **Celtic Mythology for Kids** by Chris Pinard
- **D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths** by Ingri Parin d'Aulaire and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
- **Greek Myths** by Ann Turnbull, illustrated by Sarah Young
- **Jason and the Argonauts: The First Great Quest in Greek Mythology** by Robert Byrd
- **Legends of the Iroquois** by Tehanetorens (Ray Fadden)
- **Legend of Hong Kil Dong: The Robin Hood of Korea** by Anne Sibley O'Brien
- **Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki** by Kevin Crossley-Holland, illustrated by Jeffrey Alan Love
- **The Odyssey** by Gareth Hinds
- **Pandora** by Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Raul Colón
- **Robin Hood and the Golden Arrow** by Robert San Souci
- **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight** by Michael Morpugo, illustrated by Michael Foreman
- **Stories from the Billabong** by James Vance Marshall, illustrated by Francis Firebrace
- **The Gods and Goddesses of Olympus** by Aliko
- **The Legend of the Caribou Boy / Ekwò Dozhia Wegond** by George Blondin, illustrated by Ray McSwain
- **The Woman Who Outshone the Sun / La mujer que brillaba aún más que el sol** by Alejandro Cruz Martinezula
- **Treasury of Egyptian Mythology** by Donna Jo Napoli, illustrated by Christina Balit
- **Treasury of Greek Mythology** by Donna Jo Napoli, illustrated by Christina Balit
- **Wings** by Christopher Myers
- **Young Zeus** by G. Brian Karas

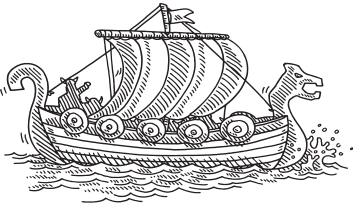


Pourquoi Tales

Selected Children's Books



- **Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story** by Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- **A Big Mooncake for Little Star** by Grace Lin
- **The First Strawberries: A Cherokee Story** by Joseph Bruchac, illustrated by Anna Vojtech (Cherokee)
- **The Flute Player** by Michael Lacapa (Apache)
- **The Golden Flower: A Taino Myth from Puerto Rico** by Nina Jaffe, illustrated by Enrique O. Sanchez (Puerto Rico)
- **The Great Race: The Story of the Chinese Zodiac** by Dawn Casey (China)
- **The Green Frogs: A Korean Folktale** by Yumi Heo (Korea)
- **Her Seven Brothers** by Paul Goble (Cheyenne)
- **How Chipmunk Got His Stripes** by Joseph Bruchac, illustrations by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey (Native American)
- **How Raven Stole the Sun** by Maria Williams, illustrated by Felix Vigil (Tlingit)
- **The Legend of the Bluebonnet** by Tomie dePaola (Texas, Comanche)
- **The Legend of the Poinsettia** by Tomie dePaola (Mexico)
- **The Legend of Lightning and Thunder** by Paula Ikuutaq Rumbolt, illustrated by Jo-Ann Rioux (Inuit)
- **The Milky Way: A Cherokee Tale** by Joseph Bruchac and Gayle Ross, illustrated by Virginia Stroud (Cherokee)
- **The Origin of the Milky Way and Other Living Stories of the Cherokee** by Barbara Duncan (Cherokee)
- **Pattan's Pumpkin: A Traditional Flood Story from Southern India** by Chitra Soundar, illustrated by Frané Lessac (India)
- **Why Leopard has Spots: Dan Stories from Liberia** by Won-Ldy Paye and Margaret Lippert, illustrated by Ashley Brian (Liberia)



Myth & Legends

Selected Children's Books

When the library is closed

Is your public library closed? See if your public library offers [OverDrive](#) where you can borrow and read free ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines on your phone or tablet. All you need is your library card to get access (and check out their [Libby app](#) for Android or iOS phones or tablets).

There are also a number of online services that offer high-quality audiobooks and ebooks: [Audible for Kids](#), [Tales2Go](#), and [Epic!](#).

Here are some ways to explore myths and legends online:

- [Myths and Legends](#): texts of well-known and not-so-well-known stories (American Folklore)
- [Myths and Legends from Around the World](#): historical and geographic adventure (Google Earth Voyager Story)
- [Ancient Greek Mythological Stories](#): animated videos (Geethanjali Kids)
- [Myths and Legends from Around the World](#) animated read-alouds (Myths and Legends)
- [Myths and Legends](#) audio stories, recommended for older kids (Myths and Legends Podcast)

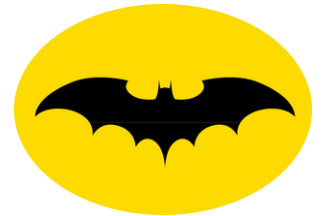


Myths & Legends

Local Heroes

Get kids thinking

- Talk with kids about a kind of story that we call a legend. Legends are stories about a real place and time in the past. They may have been based in truth, but have changed over time and become a mix of truth and fiction. They often feature a main character who is known for acts of bravery and heroism.
- Tell the kids that the heroes in legends are human (not gods and goddesses) but they often have adventures that are larger-than-life. Ask the kids if they can think of any legendary characters in stories they've read or heard or seen in the movies.
- Ask the kids, have you ever heard of Robin Hood? What makes him a hero? Robin Hood became a popular folk hero because of his generosity to the poor. He represents the common man standing up against injustice.
- Batman is another heroic figure, a legendary comic book super hero and the defender of fictional Gotham City. Batman doesn't have any superpowers and yet he has the courage to face all kinds of villains.



Writing activity

For this activity, kids will write a personal letter to a local hero.

Individual: each child chooses a person they consider to be a hero and works independently.

Small groups: pairs of kids choose one person they consider to be a hero and work collaboratively.



Myths & Legends

Local Heroes

Supplies

- Pencils, pens, or other writing tool of choice
 - 8-1/2 x 11 paper, letter-sized envelopes, first-class stamps
 - Access to the Internet
-

Let's get started

Gather the kids together in a circle to talk about their community and the strengths of the people that live there. Ask the kids if they can think of people who they think are heroes for standing up for what's right and helping their communities. This can be a friend, a family member, a spiritual community leader, a teacher ... it could also be someone well-known like an [elected official](#) or an [activist](#) or children's author who has had a positive impact on you and others.

Here are some things to think about:

- What kind of work does your hero do?
- What qualities or strengths does your hero have?
- How does your hero help make the community (or the country or the world) a better place?
- How has your hero affected your life?
- What would you like to say to your hero?
- Do you have a question you'd like to ask your hero?
- Do you want to share an example of something you've done to make your community stronger?
- How can you express thanks to your hero?



Myths & Legends

Local Heroes

Suggest to the kids that they write out a draft of their letter and share it with you. Adults can provide gentle feedback, but the letter should really be an expression of what the child at that age wants and needs to say.

Younger kids who aren't yet writing can dictate their stories to an adult.

Next, give kids time to write out a final copy of their letters. Show them an example of how to format an informal letter.

Using the Internet, adults can help find the correct addresses for each hero letter. After kids have shared their letters with the group, show them how to fold their letters, insert in the envelopes, address the envelopes (adults may need to help), and add the stamp.

Your full address here
on 3 lines

Today's date here

Dear _____

All the best,
Your signature here

Take a little walking "field trip" to your local mailbox or post office to mail the letters!

Sharing our work

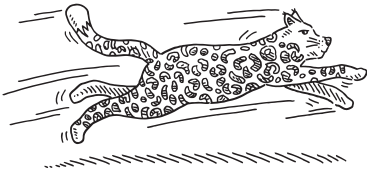
Once the letters are finished, gather everyone together in a circle to read their letters out loud and give their friends a chance to ask any questions about their heroes.

Try this!

Record It: Using a smartphone camera, make a video of each child reading their hero letter out loud to share with family, friends, and the local community.

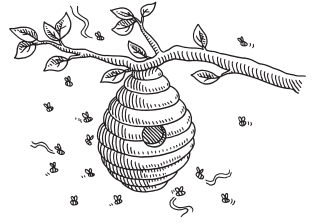
For more reading, writing, and learning resources, visit www.StartWithABook.org





Myths & Legends

Pourquoi Tales



Get kids thinking

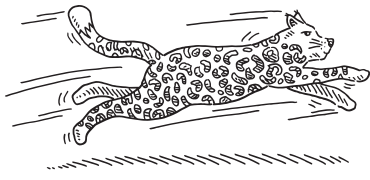
- Have you ever wondered about some of the things you see in nature — how did anteaters get such long snouts, where does thunder and lightning come from, or why are there constellations (star pictures) in the night sky? In older times, we didn't have the scientific knowledge to explain these things, so people made up stories to explain what they observed.
- These are called "pourquoi tales." Pourquoi means "why" in French. In Spanish, we could call them "por qué" tales. What would we call them in your home language?
- Together, watch this animated video of a West African pourquoi tale, narrated by James Earl Jones: [Why the Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears](#).
- Read some pourquoi tales together. See a selected list of books on page 4, or visit [Start with a Book: Folktales, Fairy Tales and Myths](#) for more recommended books. If you are having trouble finding books, you can read one or more of the short tales reprinted on pages 10–11.
- Talk about the characteristics of pourquoi tales — talking plants, animals, and celestial bodies (sun, moon, planets, and stars), a story that begins "long, long ago," and an ending that explains why something is the way it is today.
- Talk about the beginning, middle, and end of the pourquoi tales you read together.

Writing activity

For this activity, kids will write an original pourquoi tale based on animals, the night sky, or something else in nature.

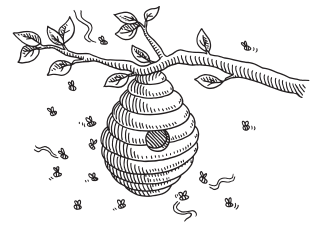
Individual: each child works independently on their pourquoi story.

Small groups: pairs of kids can work collaboratively on their pourquoi story.



Myths & Legends

Pourquoi Tales

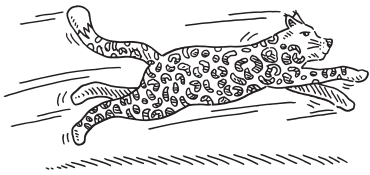


How the Leopard Got His Spots (A South African Story)

A long, long time ago, Leopard was the plain, solid brown-yellow color of the desert. He was so plain he was almost invisible against the brown-yellow desert. When he headed out to hunt, Giraffe and Zebra and the other animals didn't know which way to jump. To escape Leopard's appetite, Giraffe and Zebra headed into the great shadowy forest. When Leopard tried to follow them, he stood out like a bright-yellow sunflower against a dark fence. He could not hunt at all. Giraffe and Zebra saw yellow Leopard right away, and ran off deeper into the forest. Leopard had to do something. He asked his human friend to help him. So the Man carefully dipped his five fingertips in black ink and painted spots all over Leopard's fur. Now Leopard could blend into the shadows, and once again he became a great and powerful hunter!

Why the Sun and Moon Live in the Sky (A Zuni Legend)

A long time ago, there was no day. It was always dark and always summer. This was because the Kachina, a very powerful people, had stolen the Sun and the Moon and locked them away in a box. In the dim light, Coyote and Eagle, two friends, wandered the desert. Coyote and Eagle had always hunted together, but Coyote could not hunt anymore because he could not see at night. Coyote suggested that they go to find the Sun and Moon and make them light up the world. Eagle was worried. He reminded Coyote that the Sun and Moon were very strong, and it was dangerous to try to trick them. In the end, Eagle agreed to help Coyote. While the Kachina were sleeping, Coyote and Eagle crept into their village, stole the Sun and Moon, and headed into the hills. Coyote told Eagle that he wanted to open the box containing the Sun and the Moon. Eagle said no. They must wait until after their travels and open it with their eyes closed. Coyote grumbled. He couldn't wait to see what was in that box. Finally he grew so curious that he threw it open. The light of the Sun was so bright it blinded Coyote's eyes. The Sun and Moon laughed and flew far away, up into the sky where they are today.



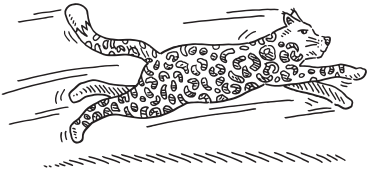
Myths & Legends

Pourquoi Tales



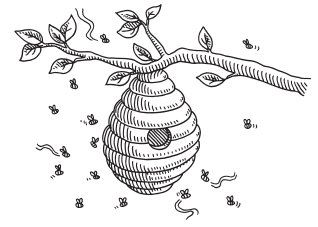
Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears (A West African Tale)

A long, long time ago, Mosquitoes didn't buzz, they talked. And talked and talked and talked. One day, Mosquito was talking to Iguana, telling him about his vacation, about every minute of his vacation. Mosquito would not let Iguana say one word. Iguana was so annoyed that he walked away, leaving Mosquito still talking. Iguana grumbled and waved her tail. She was still grumbling when she passed her friend Snake, and forgot all about saying hello. Snake's feelings were hurt. He felt so sad that he slithered down a rabbit hole. "Help," yelled Rabbit as she scurried out of the hole, terrified of Snake. "What's wrong?" cawed Crow as he saw Rabbit racing. Danger must be near. "Run for your lives!" cawed Crow. Monkey heard Crow's warning and took off through the treetops, leaping branch to branch. When Monkey landed on Owl's branch, high up in a leafy tree, Owl's nest tipped off the branch and fell to the ground, breaking Owl's eggs. Owl was heartbroken, so much that she didn't hoot for the sun to come up. The whole jungle was in darkness. Everyone was mad at Mosquito. Finally Owl hooted for the sun to come up and when it did, Mosquito lost his voice. All he could do was buzz in everyone's ears: "Zzzzzz! Is everyone still mad at me?"



Myths & Legends

Pourquoi Tales



Supplies

- Pencils, pens, and art supplies: colored pencils, markers, crayons
- Index card (1 per child)
- Drawing paper or construction paper: 8-1/2 x 11 or larger (2 sheets per child)
- Construction paper or cardboard, felt, yarn, and other decorative materials (optional)
- Scotch tape, scissors, school glue (optional)
- Story maps (included in packet)

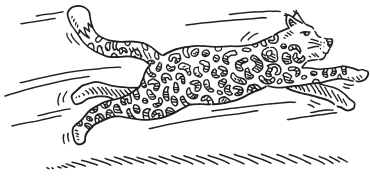
Let's get started

Together, take a walk outside and tell the kids to think about what animal, plant, or other observation about nature they want to write about. Encourage the kids to jot down observations and ideas on their index cards. Younger kids who aren't yet writing can sketch what they see.

If an outdoor walk is not possible or doesn't generate enough ideas, you can instead have a group brainstorming session and come up with a list of interesting things in nature. Make sure each child chooses something to write about!

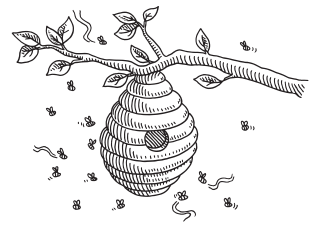
Here are some things to think about:

- What is your pourquoi tale going to explain?
- Who are your main characters?
- Where does your story take place?
- What is the main problem of the story?
- How is it solved?
- What happened as a result of this solution? (This is where your question is answered)
- Is there a lesson or moral taught through the story?



Myths & Legends

Pourquoi Tales



Remind the kids that every pourquoi tale begins with a question, such as "why do mosquitoes buzz in people's ears?" or "how did the leopard get his spots?"

Next, give each child a copy of the **story map** found in this packet. Tell the kids to think about and write down the question they are going to answer in their story. If kids are still stuck and don't know what to write about, you can use the suggested topic ideas on page 15 — they are already in the form of a question.

The story map has guiding questions to help kids work out the parts of their tales. Let the kids know that they can let their imaginations run wild as they think about why that animal, plant, or other natural thing came to be or look the way it is — and how the action in the story is described.

Show the kids how to use the **beginning-middle-end story map** in this packet to write the draft of their pourquoi tales. Remind the kids to use **descriptive words** to bring their stories to life. The last sentence in the story should begin with "And that's why ..."

With younger kids, you may need to guide them through the whole process, and they can tell you their ideas as you write their story down.

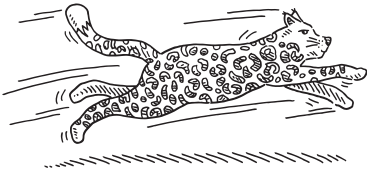
Once the kids are satisfied with their stories, tell them to write out a final, polished version on a fresh sheet of paper.

Option: We've provided a set of decorative templates that kids can use for the final versions of their pourquoi tales. They are included at the end of this packet.

Encourage kids to include a drawing with their pourquoi tales; these can be embellished with collage materials if they like. Don't forget to add a title!

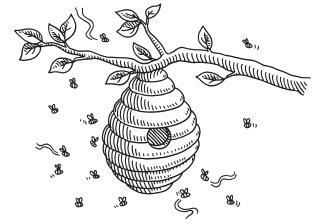
Try this!

Comic Strip: Some kids love comics and may even be talented comic strip artists. Tap into that interest by offering this alternative format for the pourquoi tale. Kids should still go through the thinking process with their story maps, but in addition to written text they can also sketch out their illustrations. Use plain paper or the comic strip template in this packet.



Myths & Legends

Pourquoi Tales



Mask making

Storytellers and actors from all over the world have used masks for thousands of years to help tell their stories. Invite kids to make masks of the characters from their pourquoi tales. You can use ordinary household items or recyclable materials, or make one with papier maché. Find directions at the links below:

- [Milk jugs](#)
- [Cardboard](#)
- [Egg cartons](#)
- [Paper plates](#)
- [Paper bags](#)
- [Papier maché](#)



Sharing our work

Once the pourquoi tales are finished, gather everyone together in a circle to read the stories out loud. Kids can be as dramatic as they like in sharing their stories. Kids can also choose to memorize their stories and present them without notes — in keeping with the oral storytelling tradition.

Tell kids to share their pourquoi tale with family and friends. They can invite listeners by asking, for example “*Do you know why the raccoon wears a mask?*”

Try this!

Record It: Help kids to record their tall tales on a smart phone (audio or video) and share with their extended families!

For more reading, writing, and learning resources, visit www.StartWithABook.org



Myths & Legends

Pourquoi Tales

Topic ideas

If kids are having a difficult time thinking about a topic for their pourquoi stories, here are some ideas to jumpstart imaginations.

- Why does the moon change shape?
- Where does thunder come from?
- Where does lightning come from?
- Why do leaves change color in the fall?
- Why do roses have thorns?
- Why do squirrels bury their acorns?
- Why do caterpillars change into butterflies?
- Why do bees make honey?
- Why do snakes have no legs?
- Why does an owl hunt at night?
- Why does a seashell hold the roar of the ocean?
- Why is the ocean salty?
- Why does the raccoon wear a mask?
- Why is the raven black?
- Why do male peacocks have such colorful feathers?
- Why do turtles have a shell on their back?
- How did lizards learn to climb walls?
- How did porcupines get their quills?

Pourquoi Tales: Story Map

Who, what, why, when, and how?

Time and place (setting)

What does your story help to explain? That's the "why" or "how" question!

Who are the "characters" in your story?

(Plants, animals, or the moon and stars can all be characters)

Describe the problem

(Why did the feature change? Or if it's something new in nature, why was it created?)

The solution

(The answer to your "why" or "how" question)

Pourquoi Tales: Story Map

Beginning, Middle, End

At the beginning:

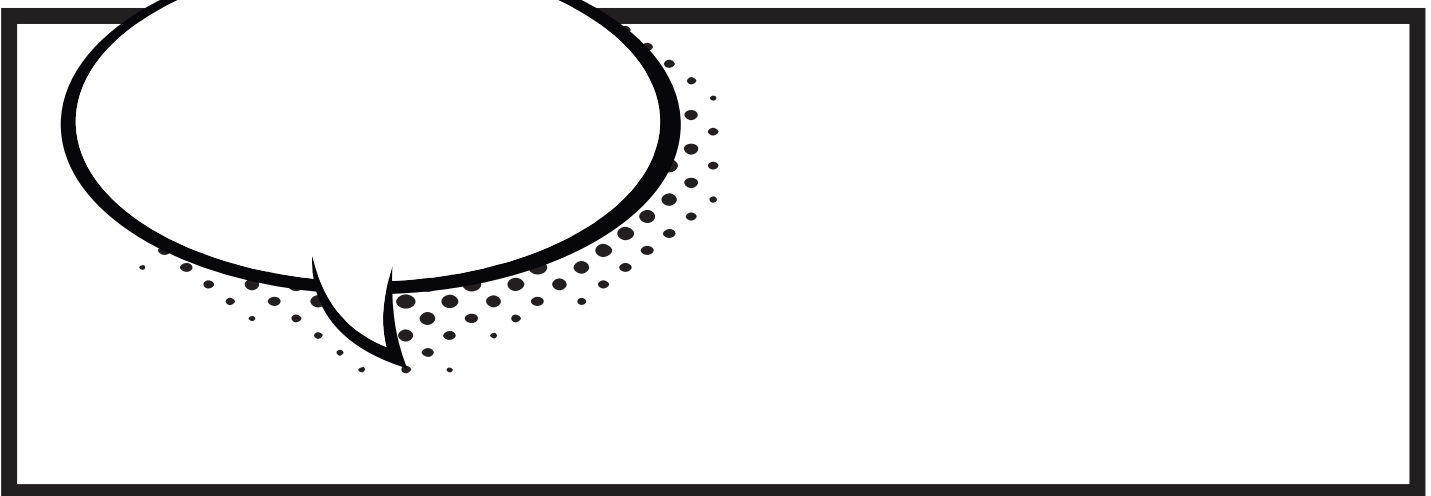
Then:

Pourquoi Tales: Story Map

Beginning, Middle, End

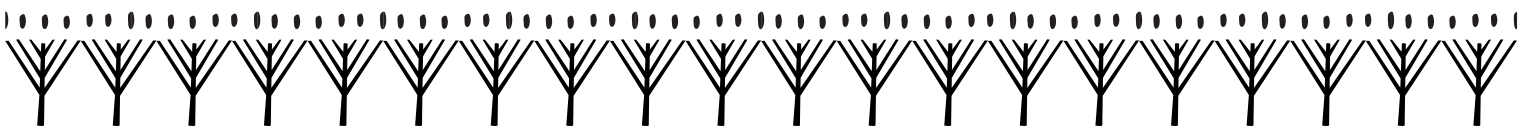
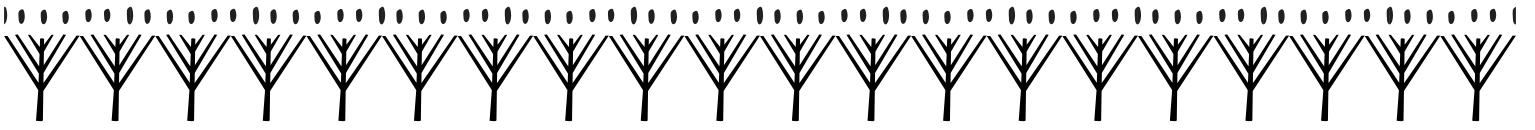
Finally:

And that's why ...



My Pourquoi Tale





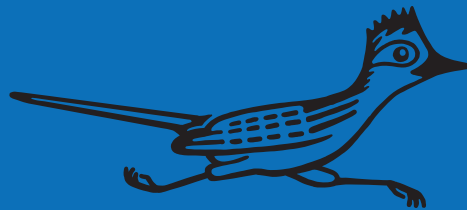
My Pourquoi Tale





Exploring Trickster Tales

- Recommended children's books
- Writing activities
- Drawing, mask-making and other creative activities
- Ideas for sharing children's stories and writing
- Templates



Folktales

Folktales are fictional stories that have been passed down from generation to generation through oral storytelling.

Folktales are usually about ordinary people and everyday life, where the hero or heroine has a certain trait (such as courage, cleverness, fairness, or kindness) that shapes the action in the story.

All ancient civilizations had their own folktales, and the folktale tradition of oral storytelling is still strong throughout the world.

Common types of folktales include fairy tales, fables, and pourquoi tales, and trickster tales.

Fairy tales are "once upon a time" stories that often center around "good versus evil" and feature magical creatures and events.

Fables feature animals that act like humans. There is often trickery involved in solving a problem (think about the tortoise and the hare) and each fable ends with a moral or lesson.

Pourquoi tales explain why something is the way it is in nature. They are also considered to be **myths**, in that they helped ancient people to understand their world.

Trickster tales feature characters — often talking animals — who trick others to get what they want or to escape harm from someone more powerful.

Discover more about folktales at Start with a Book, by browsing our booklists, by browsing our booklists, kid-friendly websites, apps, and podcasts: [Folktales, Fairy Tales and Myths](#).

For our folktale activities, we'll focus on trickster tales.

One of the main qualities of a trickster is his cleverness. Different cultures use trickster tales to teach lessons about how to behave and treat other people.

In West Africa and the Caribbean, Anansi the Spider is featured in trickster tales. In China, the trickster is called Sun Wukong, or The Monkey King, and the Eastern European trickster is The Fox. One trickster who doesn't appear as an animal is Loki, the Norse god of mischief.



Illustration © Gerald McDermott



Folktales

Trickster Tales

There are many tricksters in Native American stories, too. Coyote and Raven are the most familiar tricksters because they're considered to be intelligent animals in real life.

Trickster tales are usually funny and feature an animal playing pranks on other animals, including their friends. But the friends often turn the table on the trickster in the end!

Get kids thinking

- Ask kids if they have ever played a trick on someone. What was the trick? How did the other person feel about the trick? Remind kids that tricks should be playful and funny, and not designed to make the other person feel bad.
- Tell kids that the trickster often shows many [contradictions](#) (opposites). For example, the trickster can be: clever *and* foolish, strong *and* weak, or kind *and* unkind.
- Together, watch this animated video of [Anansi Tries to Steal All the Wisdom in the World](#), a West African Anansi tale, read by Nick Cannon.
- Read some trickster tales together. See a selected list of books on the next page, or visit [Start with a Book: Folktales, Fairy Tales and Myths](#) for more recommended books.
- Talk about the characteristics of trickster tales — talking animals, a trick, and an ending that often reveals who the most clever animal really is.
- Ask the kids if they remember examples of contradictions in the trickster tales you read together. Was the trickster clever *and* foolish?

Writing activities

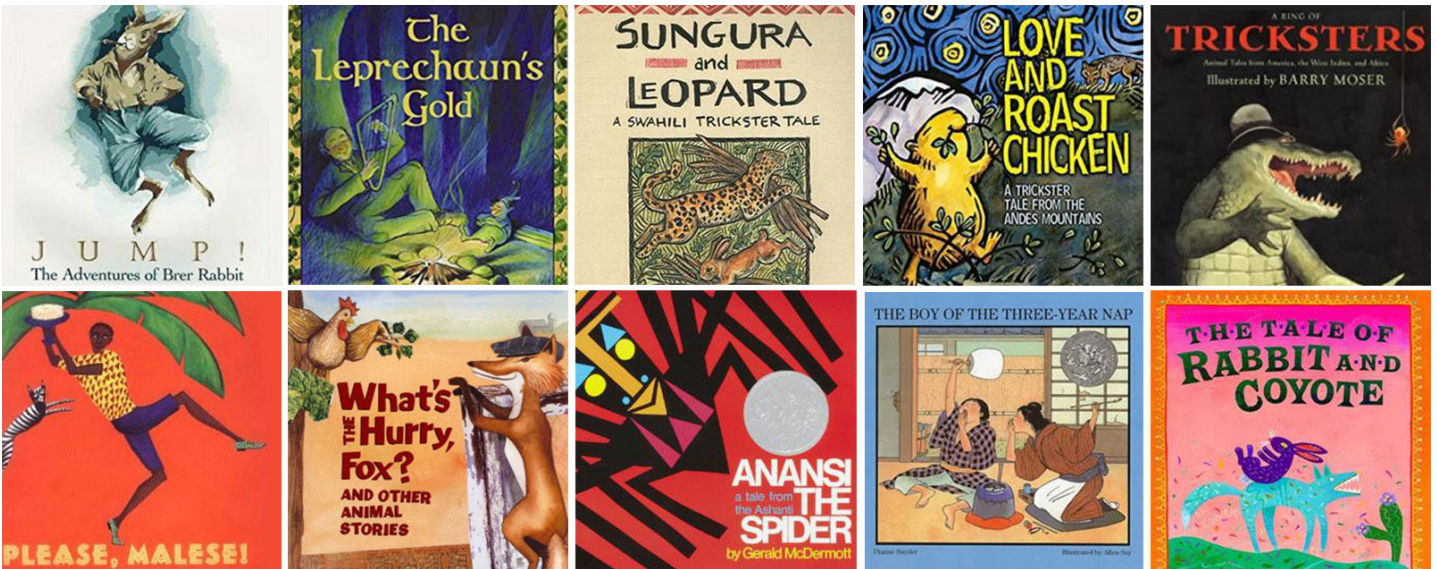
Here are two simple writing and creative activities to try after reading trickster tales together:

- [Favorite Trickster Poems](#) (see page 5)
- [Trickster Action Figure Cards](#) (see page 7)



Trickster Tales

Selected Children's Books



- **Anansi The Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti** by Gerald McDermott (Ghana)
- **Borreguita and the Coyote** by Verna Aardema, illustrations by Petra Mathers (Mexico)
- **Boy of the Three Year Nap** by Dianne Snyder, illustrations by Allen Say (Japan)
- **Coyote: A Trickster Tale from the American Southwest** by Gerald McDermott (American Southwest)
- **How Rabbit Tricked Otter** by Gayle Ross, illustrated by Murv Jacob (Cherokee)
- **Jabuti the Tortoise: A Trickster Tale from the Amazon** by Gerald McDermott (Amazon)
- **Jump! The Adventures of Brer Rabbit** by Joel Chandler Harris, illustrated by Barry Moser (American South)
- **Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book** by Yuyi Morales (Mexico)
- **The Leprechaun's Gold** by Pamela Duncan Edwards, illustrated by Henry Cole (Ireland)
- **Love and Roast Chicken: A Trickster Tale from the Andes Mountains** by Barbara Knutson (Peru)
- **A Ring of Tricksters: Animal Tales from America, the West Indies, and Africa** by Virginia Hamilton
- **Monkey: A Trickster Tale from India** by Gerald McDermott (India)
- **Please Malese!** by Amy MacDonald, illustrated by Emily Lisker (Haiti)
- **Sister Tricksters: Rollicking Tales of Clever Females** by Robert San Souci (American South)
- **Sungura and Leopard: A Swahili Trickster Tale** by Barbara Knutson (East Africa)
- **The Tale of Tricky Fox** by Jim Aylsworth, illustrated by Barbara McClintock
- **The Tale of Rabbit and Coyote** by Tony Johnston, illustrated by Tomie dePaola (Mexico)
- **What's the Hurry Fox? And Other Animal Tales** by Zora Neale Hurston, illustrated by Bryan Collier
- **Zomo the Rabbit: A Trickster Tale from West Africa** by Gerald McDermott (West Africa)



Folktales

Selected Children's Books



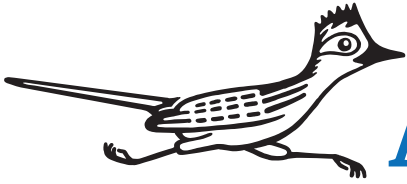
When the library is closed

Is your public library closed? See if your public library offers [OverDrive](#) where you can borrow and read free ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines on your phone or tablet. All you need is your library card to get access (and check out their [Libby app](#) for Android or iOS phones or tablets).

There are also a number of online services that offer high-quality audiobooks and ebooks: [Audible for Kids](#), [Tales2Go](#), and [Epic!](#).

Here are some ways to explore myths and legends online:

- [Folktales and Stories from Around the World](#): texts of well-known and not-so-well-known stories (American Folklore)
- [Folktales from Around the World](#): historical and geographic adventure (Google Earth Voyager Story)
- [Folktales and Fairy Tales for All](#): audiobooks (Audible)
- [Animated Stories for Kids](#) (August House / Story Cove)
- [Folktales](#) audio storytelling of traditional tales (The Story Home)
- [Animal Stories](#) audio storytelling of traditional tales with text (Storynory)



Trickster Tales

Acrostic Poem

Writing activity

For this activity, kids will write an acrostic poem based on a favorite trickster.

Individual: each child chooses their favorite trickster and works independently on their poem.

Groups: the group chooses one or more tricksters and they complete the poems together.

Supplies

- Pencils, pens, and art supplies: colored pencils, markers, crayons
 - Drawing paper or construction paper: 8-1/2 x 11 (individual activity, 2 sheets per child)
 - Poster paper, or flip chart pad, or dry-erase board (group activity)
-

Let's get started

Kids will write an acrostic poem of words or phrases that describes their favorite trickster. Some of the kids may be familiar with acrostic poems, also called vertical poems. They are easy and fun, and give kids a chance to really stretch their vocabulary muscles!

You can demonstrate how to do it, using Coyote as your example. You will write COYOTE vertically, and fill in a word, words, or phrase that begins with the first letter (see below).

Remind the kids to think about opposites as they brainstorm words and phrases. Kids can also include a drawing with their trickster poem if they like.

C conniving, crafty, clever

O

Y

O

T

E



Trickster Tales Acrostic Poem

Mask making

Storytellers and actors from all over the world have used masks for thousands of years to help tell their stories. Invite kids to make masks of the characters from their favorite trickster. You can use ordinary household items or recyclable materials, or make one with papier maché. Find directions at the links below:

- [Milk jugs](#)
- [Cardboard](#)
- [Egg cartons](#)
- [Paper plates](#)
- [Paper bags](#)
- [Papier maché](#)



Sharing our work

Once the trickster poems are finished, gather everyone together in a circle to read their poems out loud. Kids can also choose to memorize their poems and present them without notes — in keeping with the oral storytelling tradition. If you did the mask-making activity, encourage the kids to wear their masks as they share their poems.

Adults can ask the kids to explain some of their word choices and define big words for younger children in the group.

Try this!

Perform It: If you've got a group that loves music (especially rap) you can extend this activity by having the kids write and perform an original rap song based on their trickster character and using some of the words and phrases they've come up with.

For more reading, writing, and learning resources, visit www.StartWithABook.org





Action Figure Cards

Writing activity

For this activity, kids will create action figure cards based on a favorite trickster.

Individual: each child chooses their favorite trickster(s) and works independently on their card(s).

Supplies

- Pencils, pens, and art supplies: colored pencils, markers, crayons
- Printouts of the two action figure card templates in this packet (one copy of each page per child)
- Scissors

If you do not have access to a printer:

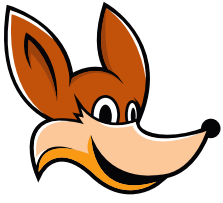
- Index cards, 4" x 6" or 5" x 8" (8 per child)
 - Star stickers (20 stickers per child)
-

Let's get started

If you have access to a printer, print out the card templates (after page 8 in this packet). Print enough copies so each child has one set of the front side and one set of the back side. Cut the sheets into individual cards along the dotted lines and glue the front to the back. Each child should have 4 trickster cards. If you don't have access to a printer, distribute index cards and star stickers.

After reading a collection of trickster tales, ask kids to write down four of their favorite tricksters and to start thinking about how they would describe each trickster. Things to think about:

- Name of the trickster
- What your trickster looks like
- Country or location where this trickster is likely to be found



Trickster Tales

Action Figure Cards

- Top skills
- Best trick ever played
- Biggest nemesis (enemy)
- "Power rating" for cleverness, speed, imagination, humor ...

Next, kids will create their sets of illustrated action figure cards. On the front, each trickster card will have the name of the trickster at the top and an original full-color drawing on the bottom. On the back, kids will write out short answers to the prompts, including a "power rating" that indicates how smart, funny, imaginative, and fast that character is — 5 stars is the highest rating. Color in the stars with yellow, red, or another bright color.

If the kids are using index cards, you'll need to prompt them with each element of their action cards. Use the star stickers for the power rating.

Tell the kids to use their imaginations in drawing their tricksters so that they really express their unique and interesting personalities!

Sharing our work

Once the trickster action cards are finished, let kids present their cards to the group, and talk about the characters. Invite the kids to trade cards if they like, or you can make color copies of the cards for everyone to share.

Try this!

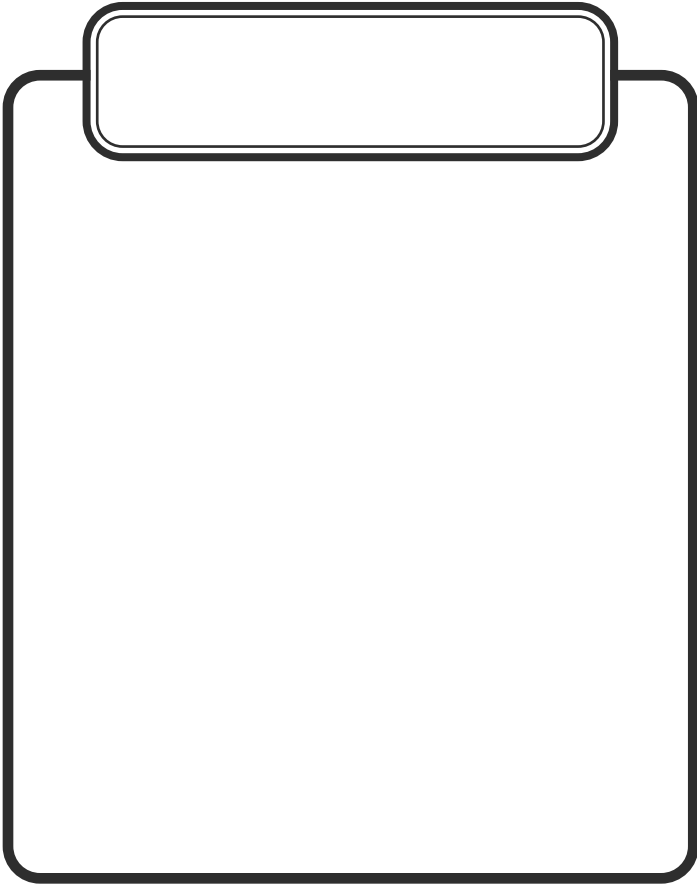
Perform It: Have kids act out a favorite trickster tale or invent a new story to act out or tell, using the components of the tale to structure their skit or oral story. Encourage costumes from the dress up-box, scenery made from materials found at home, or recyclables.

Build It: If you have play-dough or modeling clay, have the kids make a 3-D model of their trickster action figure. This could inspire some creative re-telling of the trickster stories!

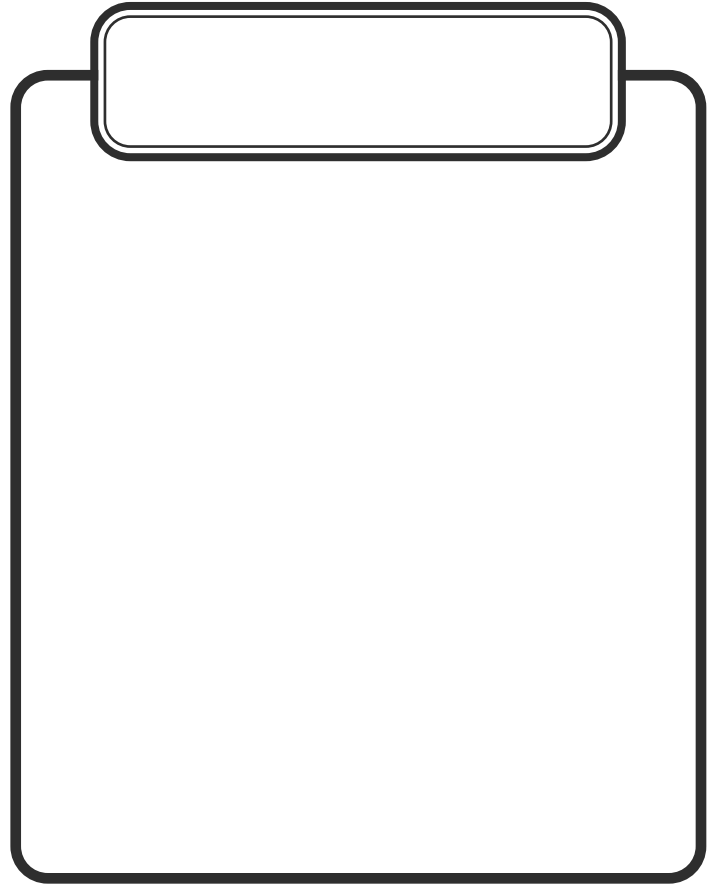
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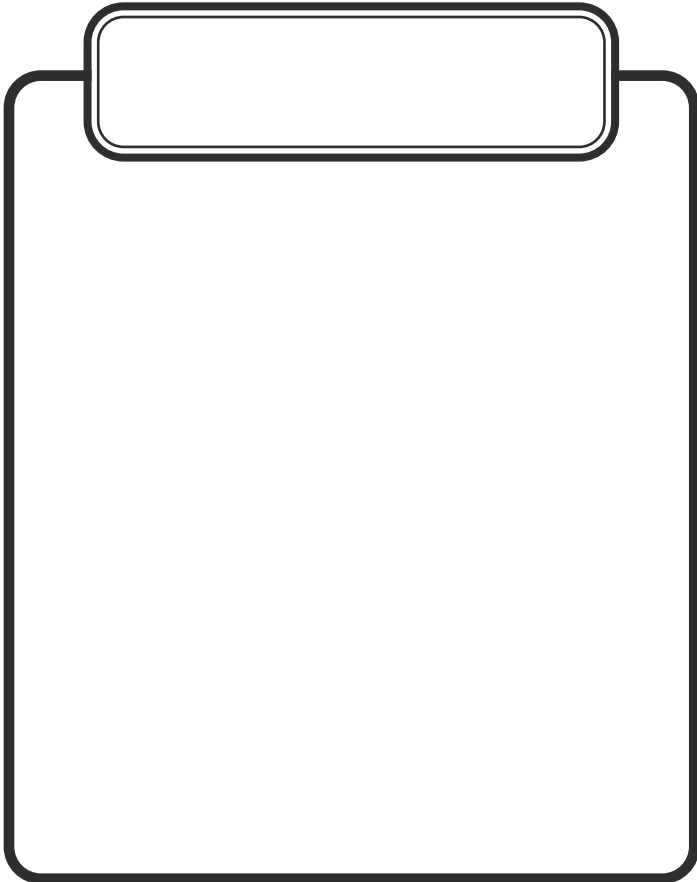
The **TRICKSTER**



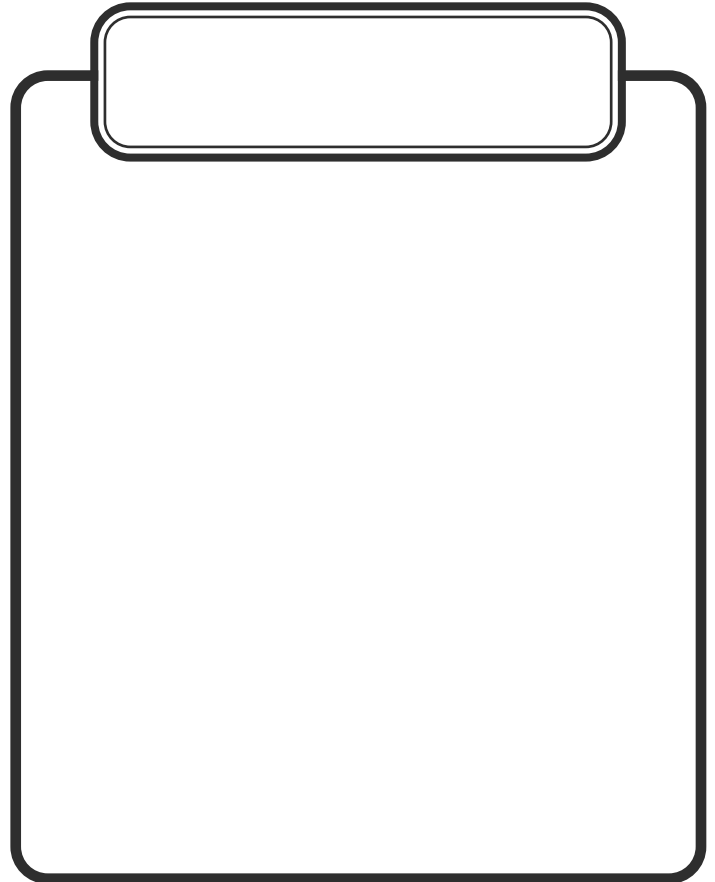
The **TRICKSTER**



The **TRICKSTER**



The **TRICKSTER**



Top Skills:

Best Trick Ever Played:

Biggest Nemesis:

Power Level:



Top Skills:

Best Trick Ever Played:

Biggest Nemesis:

Power Level:



Top Skills:

Best Trick Ever Played:

Biggest Nemesis:

Power Level:



Top Skills:

Best Trick Ever Played:

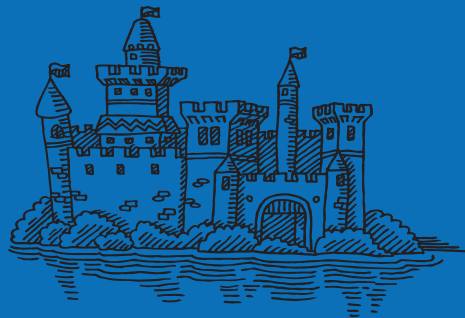
Biggest Nemesis:

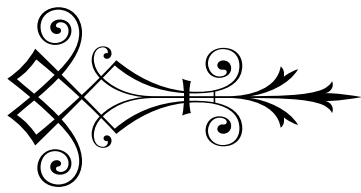
Power Level:



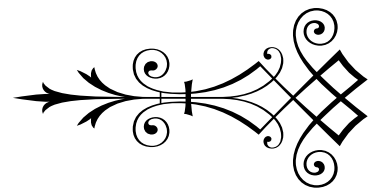
Exploring Fairy Tales

- Recommended children's books
- Writing activities
- Drawing, mask-making and other creative activities
- Ideas for sharing children's stories and writing
- Templates



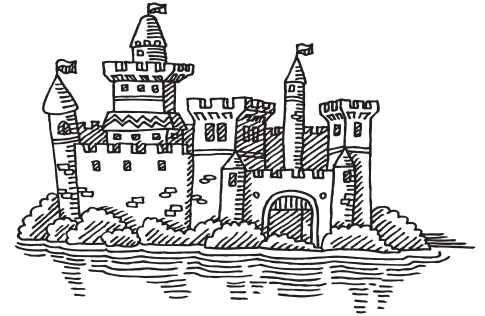


Fairy Tales



A [fairy tale](#) is a make-believe story with magical elements like [spells](#), princes and princesses, dragons, trolls, fairy godmothers, talking animals, and witches. The characters may live in [enchanted](#) places.

A common theme is good versus evil. Often, there is a character who is good and kind but is mistreated by a [villain](#), such as a wicked stepmother. There is also a [heroic](#) character who saves the day by breaking a spell, tricking the villain, or performing a daring rescue.



Characters in fairy tales will often have unusual names, like Rumpelstiltskin or Rapunzel.

If the story begins with "*Once upon a time*," and ends with "... *happily ever after*," it is probably a fairy tale!

Fairy tales from around the world

Before they were written down, fairy tales were oral stories, told or performed dramatically, and handed down from generation to generation. Fairy tales come from all over the world!

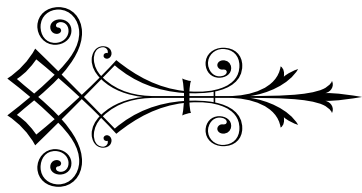


Over time, people started to write down these ancient stories. In the 17th century, the Frenchman Charles Perrault published the version of Cinderella we know today. In the 19th century, the [Brothers Grimm](#) collected German and European stories such as The Frog Prince, Hansel and Gretel, Rapunzel, Snow White, Rumpelstiltskin, and many others.

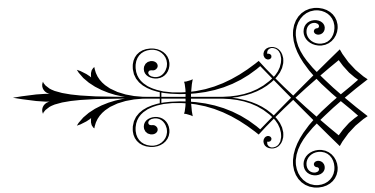
In the 19th century in Sweden, [Hans Christian Andersen](#) began to write original fairy tales, including The Little Mermaid, The Ugly Duckling, The Snow Queen, The Little Match Girl, The Steadfast Tin Soldier, and The Wild Swans.

[The Arabian Nights](#), magical tales from the Middle East were first collected more than 500 years ago! Familiar stories include Aladdin's Wonderful Lamp (originally a Chinese tale), Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves, and the Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor.





Fairy Tales



Introduce kids to some fairy tales that may not be as well known, such as Abiyoyo (South Africa), Strega Nona (Italy), Tim O'Toole and the Wee Folk (Ireland), Baba Yaga (Russia), Yeh Shen (the original Cinderella from China), and Momotarō, the Peach Boy (Japan), and The Tiger and the Brahmin (India).

Discover more about fairy tales at Start with a Book, by browsing our booklists, kid-friendly websites, apps, and podcasts: [Folktales, Fairy Tales and Myths](#).

Get kids thinking

- Ask kids which fairy tales and fairy tale characters they can think of. What do they remember about the story?
- Read some fairy tales together. See a selected list of books on the next page, or visit [Start with a Book: Folktales, Fairy Tales and Myths](#) for more recommended books.
- Talk about the characteristics of fairy tales — fantasy or make-believe, an enchanted setting (castles, kingdoms, the forest), good versus evil, and magic, characters take on unusual forms (giants, witches, dwarfs, talking animals). There is usually a happy ending!
- Talk about the beginning, middle, and end of the fairy tales you read together.
- Try reading two different versions of the same story (like *Lon Po Po* and *Little Red Riding Hood*) and talk about what's the same and what's different.



Writing activities

Here are three writing and creative activities to try after reading your fairy tales together:

- [Mapping My Fairy Tale](#) (see page 4)
- [Fairy Tale Timeline](#) (see page 10)
- [Fairy Tale Catalog](#) (see page 15)



Fairy Tales

Selected Children's Books



Little Red Riding Hood

- **Flossie and the Fox** by Patricia McKissack, illustrations by Rachel Isadora (African American)
- **Lon Po Po** by Ed Young (China)
- **Little Red Riding Hood: A Newfangled Prairie Tale** by Lisa Campbell Ernst (American Midwest)

The Princess and the Pea

- **La Princesa and the Pea** by Susan Middleton Elya (Latino)
- **Princess and the Peas** by Rachel Himes (South Carolina)

Cinderella

- **Cendrillon** by Robert D. San Souci, illustrated by Brian Pinkney (Creole, Caribbean)
- **The Korean Cinderella** by Shirley Climo, illustrated by Ruth Heller (Korea)
- **Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters** by John Steptoe (Zimbabwe)
- **The Gift of the Crocodile** by Judy Siera, illustrated by Reynold Ruffins (Indonesia)
- **The Rough-Face Girl** by Rafe Martin, illustrated by David Shannon (Algonquin)
- **Yeh Shen** by Ai-Ling Louie, illustrated by Ed Young (China)

Hansel and Gretel

- **Hansel and Gretel** by Rachael Isadora (Africa)
- **Hansel and Gretel** by Bethan Woollvin (modern retelling)

Rapunzel

- **Rapunzel** by Rachael Isadora (Africa)
- **Rapunzel's Revenge** by Shannon Hale, illustrations by Nathan Hale (Wild West, graphic novel format)
- **Sugar Cane** by Patricia Storeace (Caribbean)



Fairy Tales

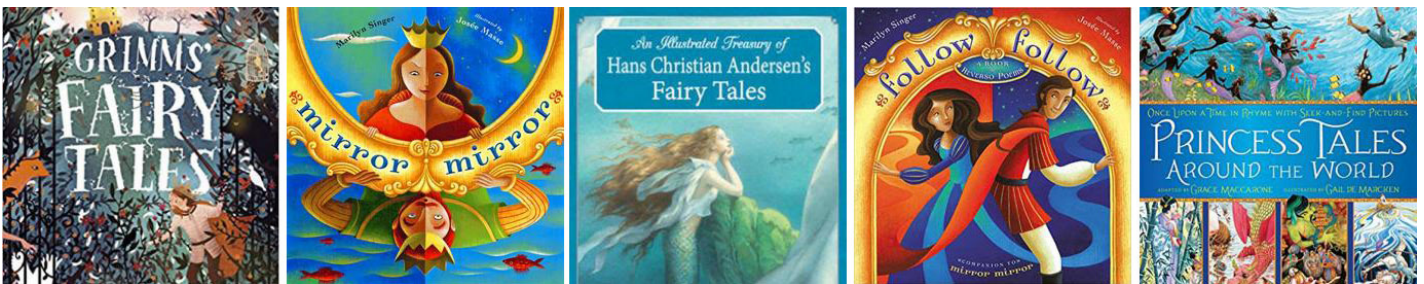
Selected Children's Books

More fairy tales from around the world



- **Baba Yaga and Vasilisa the Brave** by Marianna Mayer, illustrated by Kinuko Y. Craft (Russia)
- **Peach Boy** by Florence Sakade, illustrated by Yoshisuke Kurosaki (Japan)
- **The Tiger and the Brahmin** by Bran Gleeson, illustrated by Kurt Vargo (India)
- **Tim O'Toole and the Wee Folk** by Gerald McDermott (Ireland)
- **The Wild Swans** by Hans Christian Andersen, illustrated by Helen Crawford-White (Denmark)

Fairy tale anthologies



- **Grimm's Fairy Tales** by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (Germany)
- **Follow, Follow: A Book of Reverso Poems** by Marilyn Singer, illustrations by Josée Masse
- **An Illustrated Treasury of Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales** by Hans Christian Andersen, illustrated by Anastasiya Archipova (Denmark)
- **Mirror, Mirror: A Book of Reverso Poems** by Marilyn Singer, illustrations by Josée Masse
- **Princess Tales from Around the World** by Grace Maccarone, illustrated by Gail de Marcken



Fairy Tales

Selected Children's Books

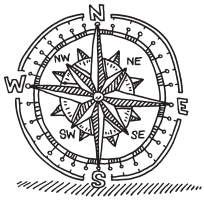
When the library is closed

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There are also a number of online services that offer high-quality audiobooks and ebooks: [Audible for Kids](#), [Tales2Go](#), and [Epic!](#).

Here are some ways to explore fairy tales online:

- [Folktales and Fairy Tales for All](#): audiobooks (Audible)
- [Annotated Fairy Tales](#): fairy tale texts with history, list of similar tales across cultures, bibliography, illustration gallery, book gallery, and list of modern interpretations. (Sur La Lune Fairy Tales)
- [The Emperor's New Clothes and Other Fairy Tales](#): animated videos (Geethanjali Kids)
- [Famous Fairy Tales](#): animated videos (Little Cozy Nook)
- [Fairy Tales from Around the World](#): historical and geographic adventure (Google Earth Voyager Story)



Mapping My Fairy Tale



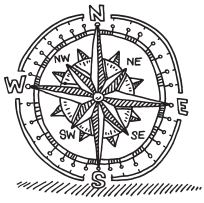
For this activity, kids will create an original full-color map based on a fairy tale you've read together.

Individual: each child chooses a fairy tale and works independently.

Small groups (2-3 kids): each group chooses a fairy tale and works collaboratively.

Supplies

- Pencils and art supplies: colored pencils, markers, crayons, paint. Colored construction paper (optional)
- Drawing paper or construction paper: 8-1/2 x 11 or larger. Or a roll of white paper or kraft paper
- Scotch tape, scissors
- School glue; masking tape or painters tape (optional)



Mapping My Fairy Tale

Get kids thinking

Talk about the [settings](#) in the fairy tales you read together. Use descriptive words like the “thick, dark woods” or the “shimmering castle”.

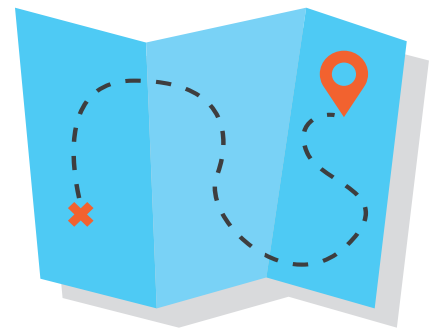
Have each child choose a favorite fairy tale that creates a vivid picture about the world where the story takes place. Give kids time to imagine what that world looks like in their minds.

Tell kids that they will be creating their own map that shows the fairy tale setting as they see it. Ask kids to think about the elements they will want to include in the map.

Let's get started

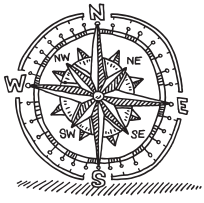
Tape together two or more 8-1/2 x 11 sheets of paper to create a large space for the map. If you have a roll of white paper or kraft paper, cut two feet or more for each map.

Here's a third option: create a "stand up" map by making a 3- or 4-panel an accordion fold with your sheet of paper — see the diagram on the right. This works best with heavier construction paper.

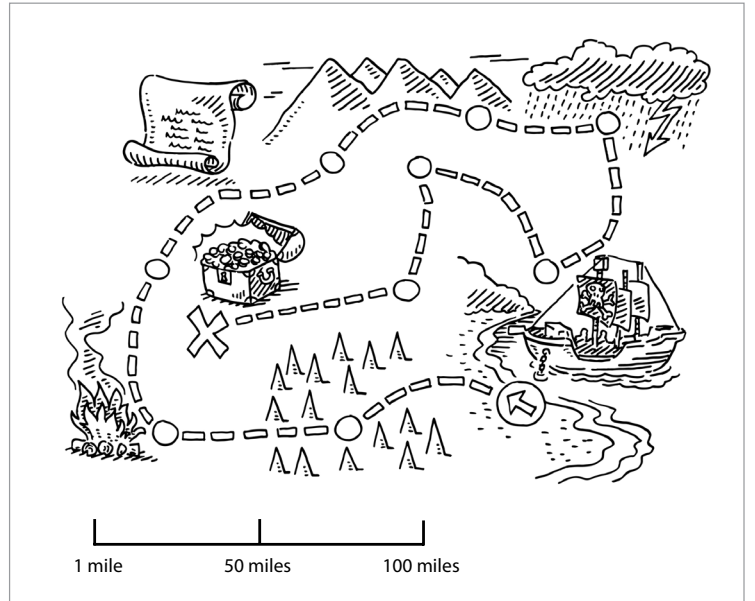


Although these fairy tale maps are imaginary, you can introduce kids to some of the [basic elements of a real map](#). Kids can include these elements in their maps if they like:

- [Title](#) tells the viewer what this a map of.
- [Compass Rose](#) indicates North, South, East and West. Draw your own compass rose or use one of the graphics on page 9.
- [Legend or key](#) explains what the symbols on that map represent. For example, on the adventure map on the next page, you can see symbols for town, village, and dungeon.
- [Scale](#): shows the relationship between a certain distance on the map and the actual distance. For example, one inch might represent one mile. See the pirate map on the next page.



Mapping My Fairy Tale



Tell the kids to sketch out their maps in pencil first, and then finish it in colored pencil, crayon, marker, or paint. Kids can also use cut paper to create some of the elements on their maps. Remind the kids to think about their descriptive words as they create the elements in their maps.

Sharing our work

When the maps are finished, tape them to the wall, and ask the kids to tell the fairy tale in their own words while pointing out important places on their maps.

Try this!

Chalk Drawing: Instead of drawing their maps on paper, kids can draw them with sidewalk chalk outdoors. Each child can give a "walking tour" of their fairy tale map. Take a picture of each child with their map so there's a record of their efforts!

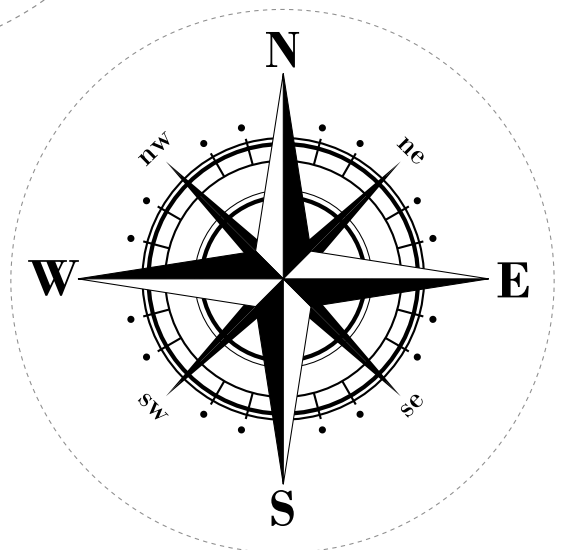
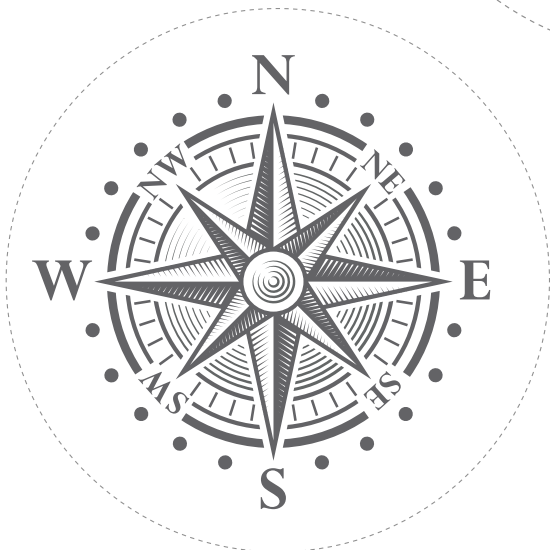
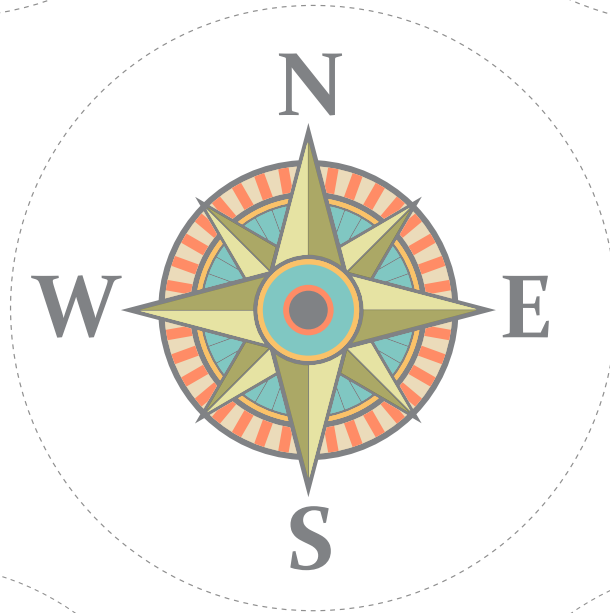
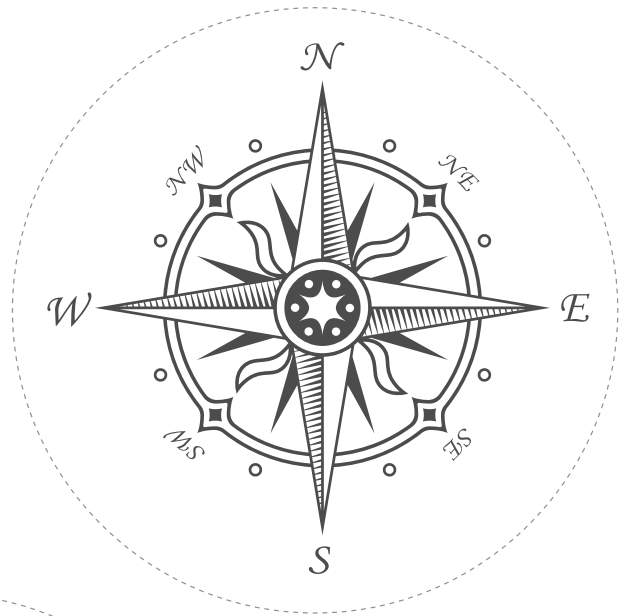
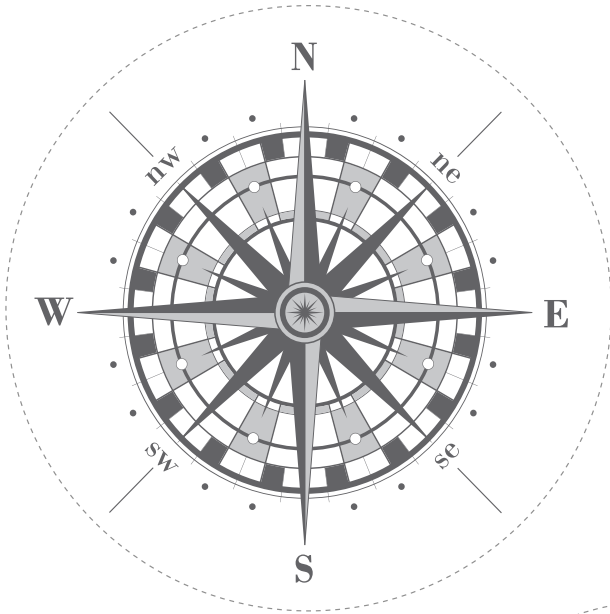
Kids could also act out the fairy tale outside, and use their environment as the make-believe setting — shrubs and other plants (the forest!) steps or porches (the castle!), the sidewalk, boxes, or wagons (the ship!) ...

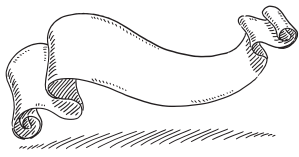
For more reading, writing, and learning resources, visit www.StartWithABook.org



The Compass Rose

Draw your own — or cut and glue one of these to your map





Fairy Tale Timeline

For this activity, kids will create a [beginning-middle-end](#) illustrated timeline based on a fairy tale you've read together.

Individual: each child chooses a fairy tale and works independently.

Small groups (2-3 kids): each group chooses a fairy tale and works collaboratively.

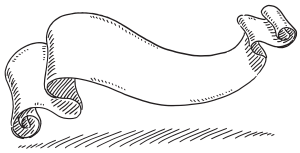
Supplies

- Pencils and art supplies: colored pencils, markers, crayons, paint. Colored construction paper (optional)
- **Option A:** drawing paper or heavier construction paper: 8-1/2 x 11 (3-9 sheets per timeline). Or a roll of white paper or kraft paper
- **Option B:** index cards: 6-9 per child or small group (or use the template on page 15). Yarn or string. Hole puncher or clothespins (optional)
- Scotch tape, scissors
- School glue; masking tape or painters tape (optional)
- Wooden dowels, 12-18 inches long (depending on the height of your paper) and 1/4-inch diameter, two per map (optional)

Get kids thinking

Talk about the fairy tale you read together. What happens in the beginning of the story? In the middle of the story? And what happens at the end? Give kids time to think about these three elements in each part of the story: the [characters](#), the [setting](#) (time and place), and the [action](#).

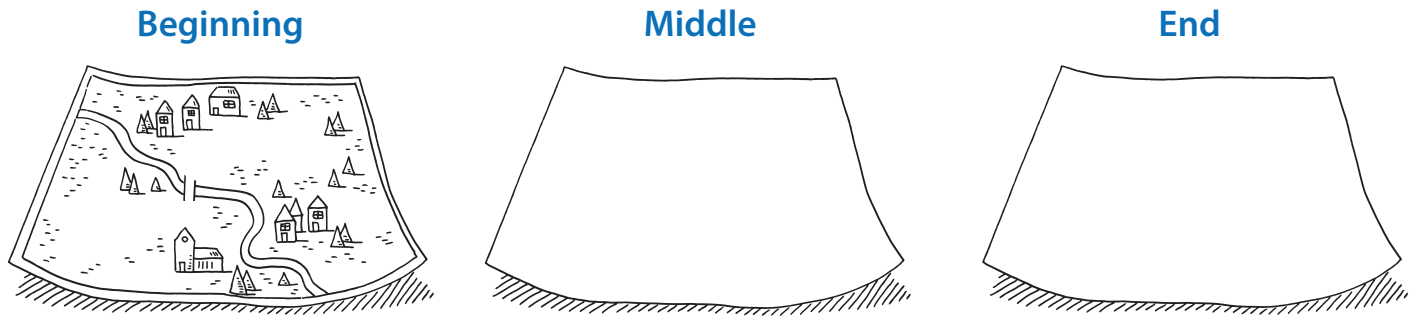
Tell kids that they will be creating their own illustrated timeline that tells the main parts of the story.



Fairy Tale Timeline

Let's get started

Option A: Give each child 3-9 sheets of paper depending on how detailed they want their timelines to be. For younger children, you can offer 3 sheets and suggest a basic beginning-middle-end timeline.



Older kids may want to fill in more details (especially for the middle section of the fairy tale) and will want 6 or more sheets of paper.

If you have a roll of white paper or kraft paper, cut 3-foot lengths or longer for children who want to make very detailed timelines.

Option B: Give each child 6-9 index cards (3 cards for younger kids). Tell kids to use the blank side of the card for their timeline, and to think of each card as an event on the timeline. Or, you can print and cutout the template cards from page 14.

Illustrating the timeline

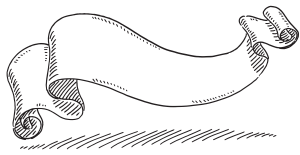
Have the kids think about the [characters](#), the [time and place](#), and the [action](#) for each section of their timeline.

The timeline should include words and pictures. The words can describe the time and place ("A long time ago ... in a kingdom by the Silver Sea" or "next Spring, out in the woods ...") or the characters ("The brave fisherman took his boat out to sea ...").

Now the kids can begin to work on their timeline. Suggest that they sketch out their drawings in pencil first, and then finish in colored pencil, crayon, marker, or paint. Kids can also use cut paper to create some of the elements on their timelines.

Assembling the timeline

Option A: Tape the pieces of the timeline together on the backside. Be sure to get the pieces in the correct order! You may suggest to the kids that they write the number of each page or index card on the back — 1, 2, 3, and so on.



Fairy Tale Timeline

Let's get started (continued)

Option B: Use the hole puncher to make a hole on the top right and left corners of the index card. Then cut a length of yarn or string and have the kids weave it through the holes to create a line of cards, like in the example below. You could alternatively use clothespins to attach the cards to the yarn or string.

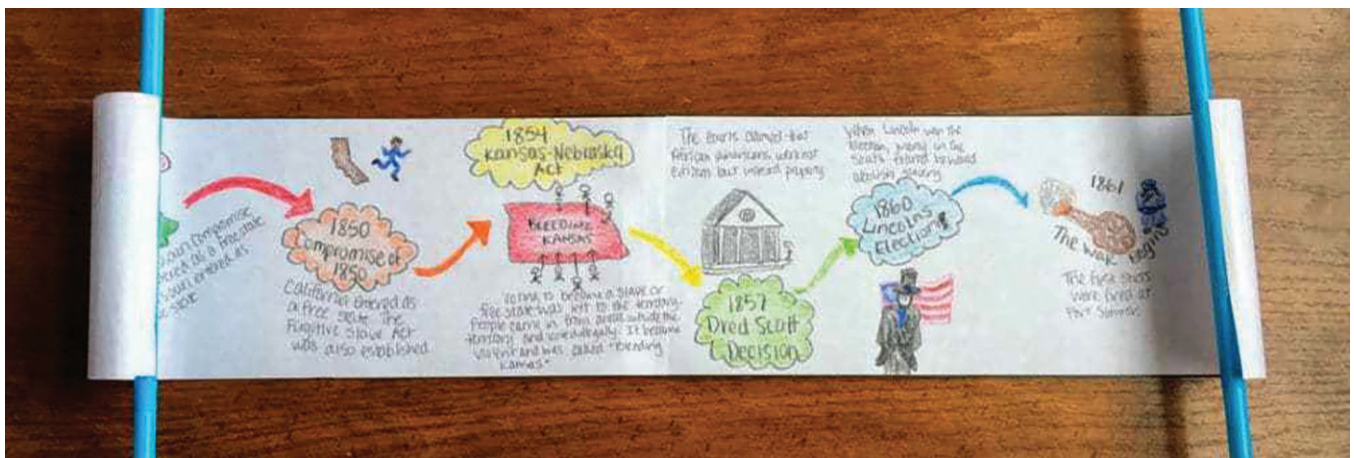


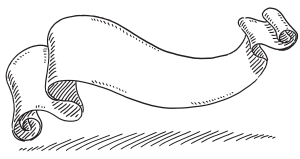
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When the timelines are finished, tape them to the wall, and ask the kids to tell the fairy tale in their own words while pointing out important events and action on their timelines.

Try this!

Scroll Timeline: Cut the wooden dowels to the right length — about 4 inches taller than the height of each child's timeline. Have the kids attach the dowels to the right and left sides of the paper with glue or tape. Roll up the timeline into a cylinder, like a Torah or Japanese scroll. (If you use glue to attach the dowels, be sure it is dry before you roll the paper.) Kids can dramatically unroll their timeline to share with family and friends — you might even need a helper to hold one side of the timeline as you unroll.





Fairy Tale Timeline

Mask making

Storytellers and actors from all over the world have used masks for thousands of years to help tell their stories. Invite kids to make masks of the characters from their fairy tales. You can use ordinary household items or recyclable materials, or make one with papier maché. Find directions at the links below:

- [Milk jugs](#)
- [Cardboard](#)
- [Egg cartons](#)
- [Paper plates](#)
- [Paper bags](#)
- [Papier maché](#)



Photo © Warren King

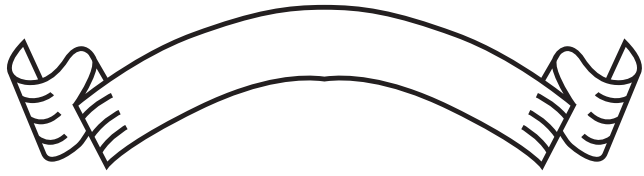
Sharing our work

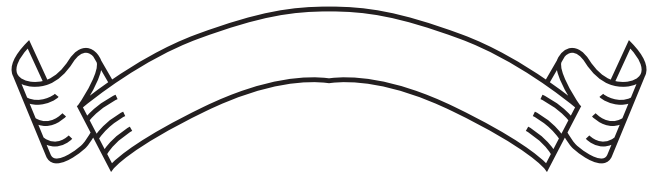
When the timelines are finished, tape them to the wall, and ask the kids to tell their fairy tale in their own words while pointing out important places on their timelines.

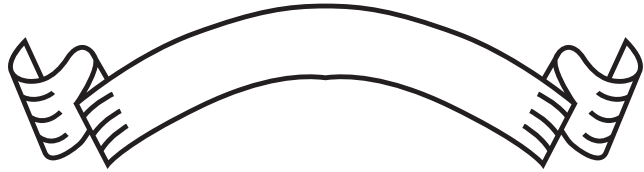
For more reading, writing, and learning resources, visit www.StartWithABook.org

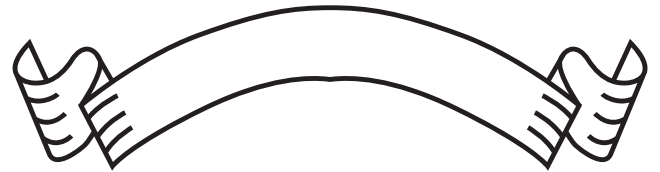


Fairy Tale Timeline Template











Fairy Tale Catalog

For this activity, kids will create an illustrated catalog of items from multicultural fairy tales you've read together.

Individual: each child creates his or her own fairy tale catalog.

Small groups: each group works collaboratively on their fairy tale catalog.

Supplies

- Pencils and art supplies: colored pencils, markers, crayons, paint.
 - Construction paper: white and colors
 - Decorative items: pom poms, glitter, gold leaf paper, sequins, buttons, etc. (optional)
 - School glue
 - Stapler
 - Hole puncher, yarn (optional)
-

Get kids thinking

If you can, read a variety of fairy tales from different parts of the world. See the list of recommended books on pages 3-4 for ideas. Talk about the stories you've read together.

Many of them are full of incredible objects with magical powers like an [enchanted](#) mirror. Other objects might not be magical but they have an important role in the fairy tale — think about Little Red Riding Hood's cape!

What if there was a catalog where you could browse many of the wondrous items you've heard about in fairy tales from around the world? If kids are not familiar with catalogs, adults can show examples of print catalogs or online stores.

Tell kids that they will be creating their own illustrated catalog of fairy tale objects. They will be practicing their [descriptive writing](#) skills. Descriptive writing helps readers create a clear picture in their minds of a person, place, thing, or event. Strong descriptive writing uses one or more of the 5 senses: [sight, smell, taste, touch, or sound](#).



Fairy Tale Catalog

Let's get started

Have the kids brainstorm ideas for the objects to include in their catalogs — it could be glass slippers, golden ball, magic harp, flying carpets, or seven-league boots, or ...?

Kids can do this independently and jot down ideas on their own sheet of paper, or an adult can lead the discussion and write all the ideas on a flip chart or poster paper. Be sure to identify which fairy tale the object comes from.

Ask the kids: do you see different kinds of objects in fairy tales that come from different cultures and different parts of the world? Be sure to include some of these in your fairy tale catalog.

Writing the descriptions

The next step is to get the kids writing [vivid](#) descriptions of the objects in their catalogs.

Ask the kids to select their fairy tale objects, and to use one sheet of paper (or a half-sheet) for each object in their catalogs.

Have the kids to write down their descriptions of each object in great detail, using colorful descriptive words. Younger kids who aren't yet writing can dictate their ideas to an adult. The following questions can help spark ideas:

- What does it feel like to touch? Smooth, rough, sharp, bumpy, squishy?
- Does it have a unique smell?
- What color or colors? Does it shine or sparkle?
- What materials is it made of? Cloth, jewels, bronze, iron, stone?
- Does it make a sound when you touch it? A clang, a rustle, musical notes?
- What is your object used for? How does it work?

Next, the kids will illustrate their objects, using crayons, colored pencils, or paint. If you have decorative materials on hand (such as pom poms, glitter, gold leaf paper, sequins, or buttons), children can glue these on to create a collage.

This is a project you can keep adding to until you're ready to bind your pages together!



Fairy Tale Catalog

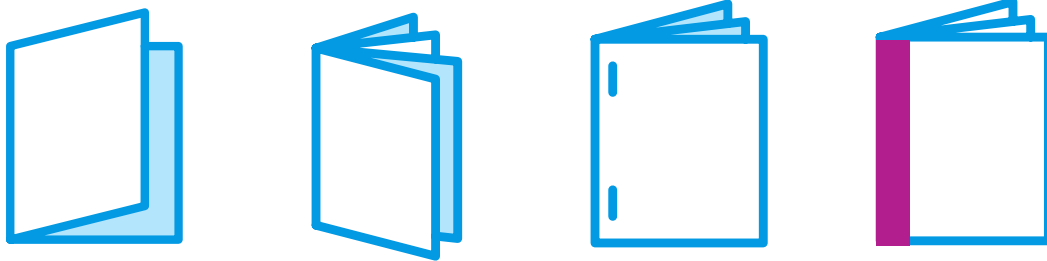
Let's get started (continued)

Assembling the catalogs

Once each child or group has finished all of their descriptive illustrated pages, it's time to add a cover and bind the pages into a booklet.

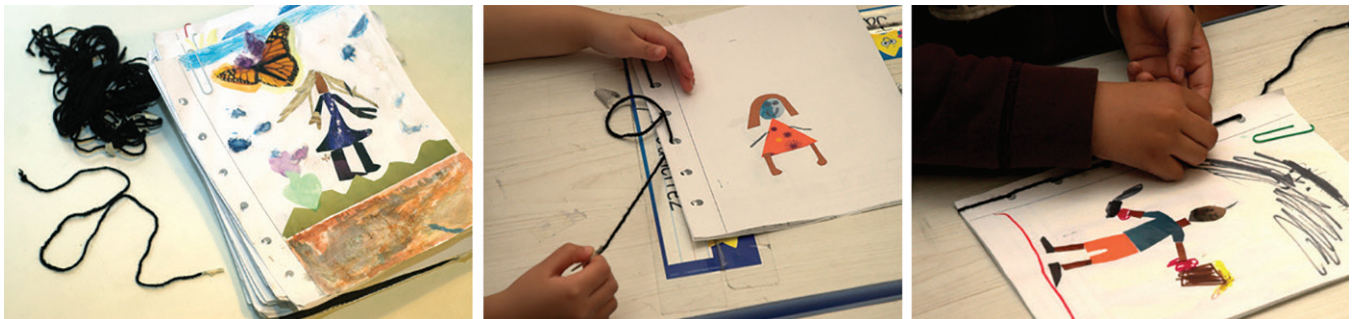
Catalog covers: Kids can create their own cover art, or use one of the decorative templates provided after page 18 in this packet.

Show the kids how to assemble their pages in the order they want and then insert the pages between the front and back cover. The simplest way to bind the catalogs is to staple along the left-hand side of the booklet.



To cover the staples, kids can place a piece of decorative tape along the stapled edge so that half of the tape is on the front of the booklet; press down on the tape, and then fold the other half of the tape towards the back and press down again.

For a fancier binding, show the kids how to punch holes through all layers of their booklets on the left-hand side. Then, demonstrate how to thread the yarn through the holes and tie it off. (Tip: roll a small piece of tape around one end of the yarn to make it easier to thread the holes.)



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Fairy Tale Catalog

Sharing our work

When the fairy tale catalogs are finished, gather the kids together in a circle and pass the booklet around. Give each child a chance to talk about their object and for the other kids to ask questions.

Try this!

That Will Cost You 10 Magic Beans: It's a catalog, so fairy tale characters might want to buy a new flying carpet or glass slipper. Have kids include in their catalogs the store where the customer can buy it (and who the store owner is) and the price for each item— 3 gold pieces, 10 magic beans, etc.

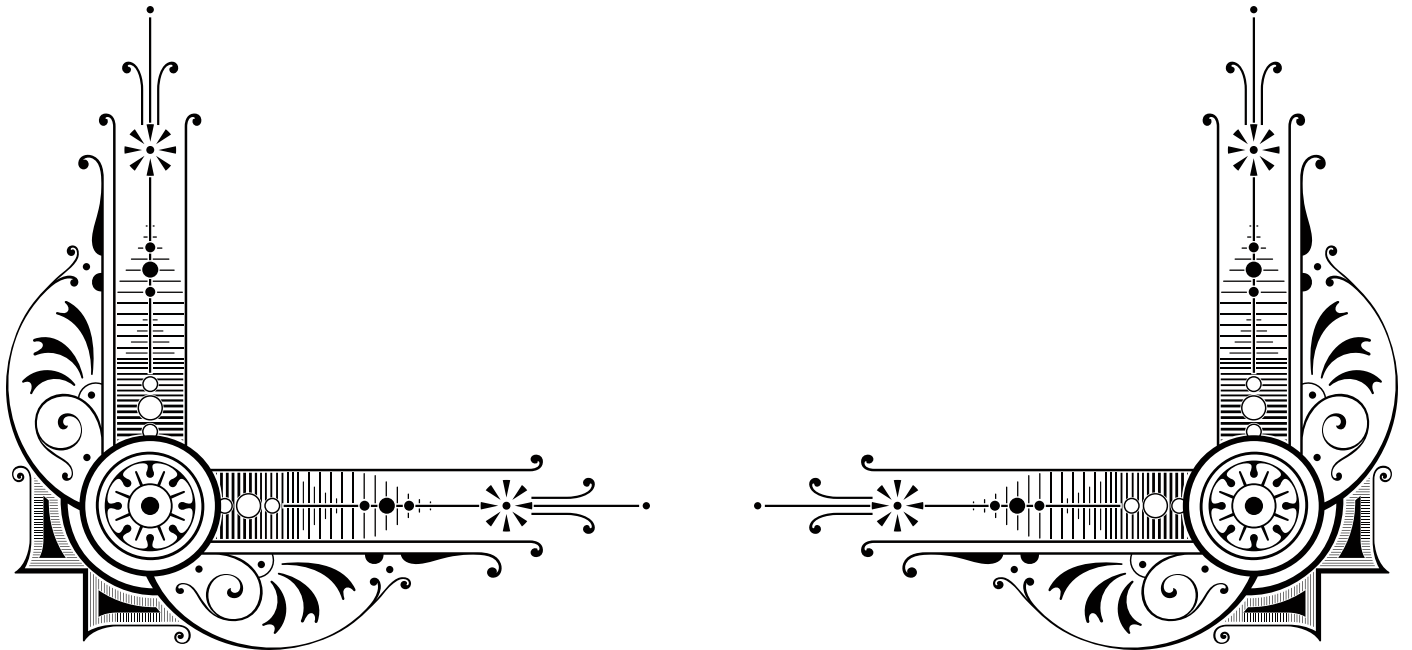
I Saw It on TV: Kids can make up television ads for the magical items they are selling and act out their sales pitch for friends and family. Older kids could work together to develop and perform episodes from The Fairy Tale Shopping Network.

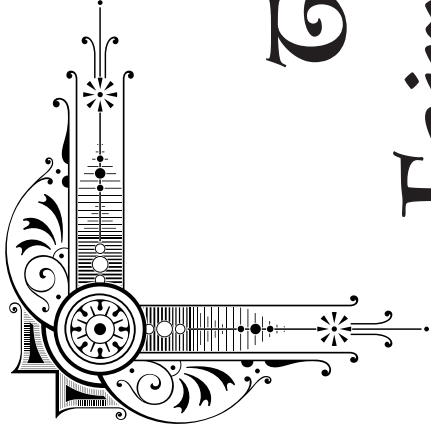
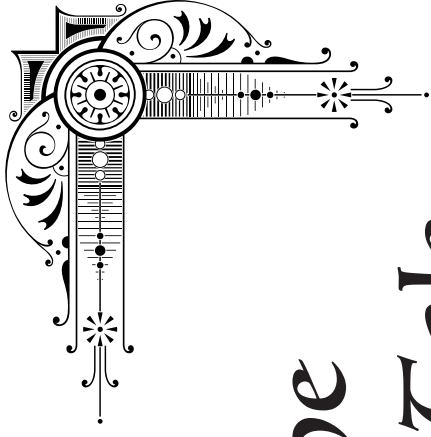




The Fairy Tale Catalog

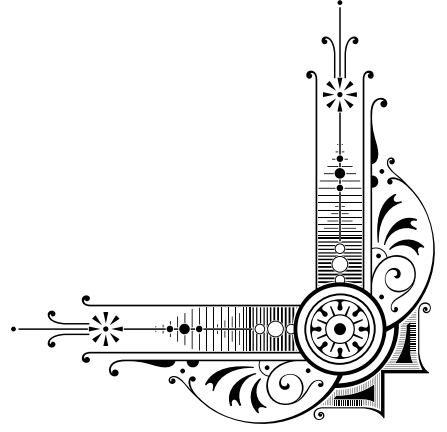
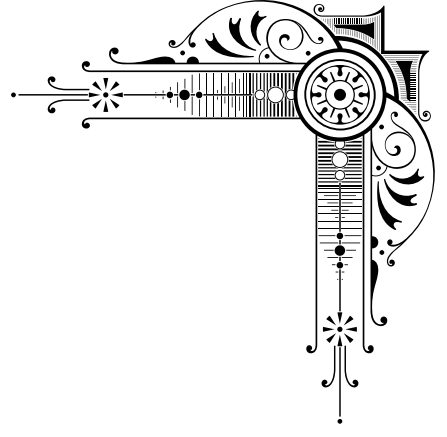
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The Fairy Tale Catalog

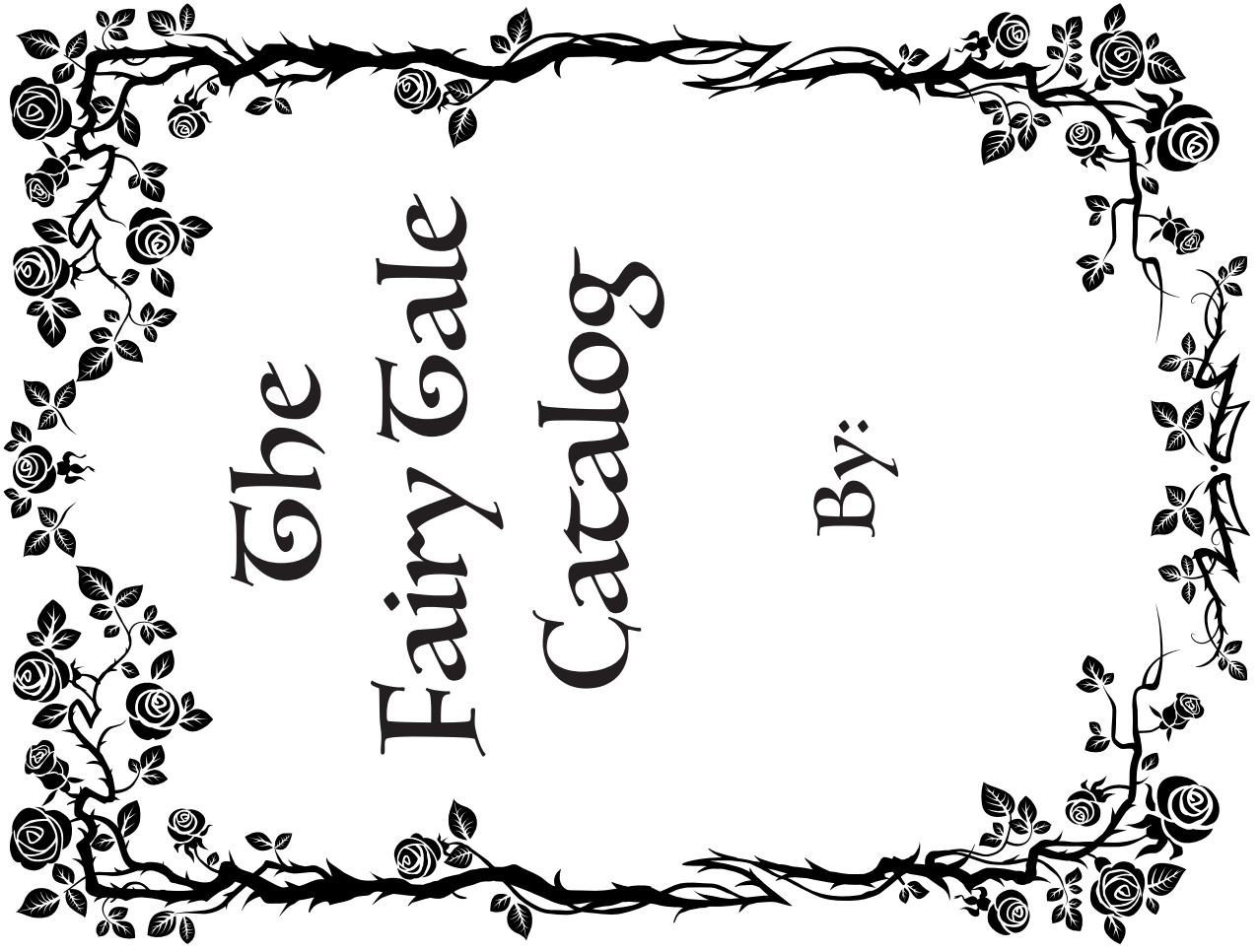
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The
Fairy Tale
Catalog

By:



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Fairy Tale
Catalog*

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