

Folk Literature

....And Academic Vocabulary

Elements of Folk Literature

1. The oral tradition - sharing of stories by word of mouth
2. The Importance of The Story Teller
 - Stories in oral tradition were created thousands of years ago
 - No one knows the first storytellers
 - New storytellers add and change details
 - **Cultural perspective** - view of the world
 - Viewpoints are shaped by story teller's background and experiences

Elements of Folk Literature Continued

3. Theme - the central idea, message, or insight about life that a story conveys

-**universal themes** - themes that are repeated across many cultures and over many time periods - express insights into life that many people understand

For example: the struggle of good against evil

-**moral** - a lesson about life that is stated directly, usually at end of story

Elements of Folk Literature Continued

4. Purpose of Folk Literature - the reason it was written

For example: to explain or teach, to entertain

Forms of Folk Literature

1. Myths - tales that relate the action of gods, goddesses, and the heroes who interact with them

For example: Greek mythology

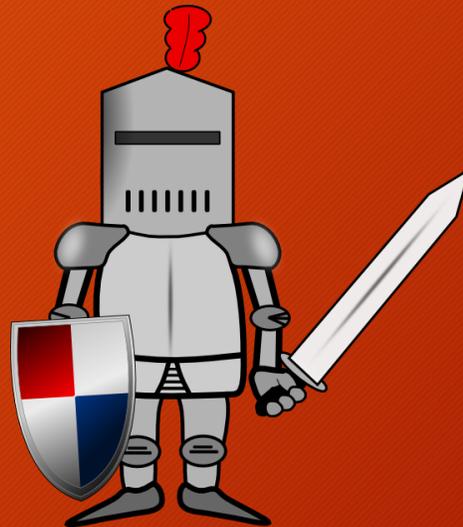
-**mythology** - collection of myths



Forms of Folk Literature Continued

2. Legends - traditional stories based on real-life events...as retold, fact often changes to fiction

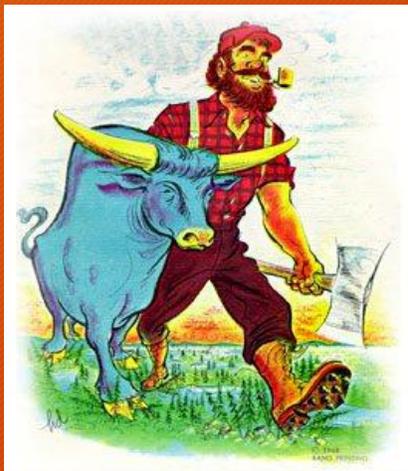
For example: Robin Hood, King Arthur, Knights of the round table



Forms of Folk Literature Continued

3. Tall tales - often focus on a central hero who performs impossible feats

For example: Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, and Johnny Appleseed



Forms of Folk Literature Continued

4. Folk Tales - may deal with real people or magical characters, and they reflect the values & beliefs of the culture

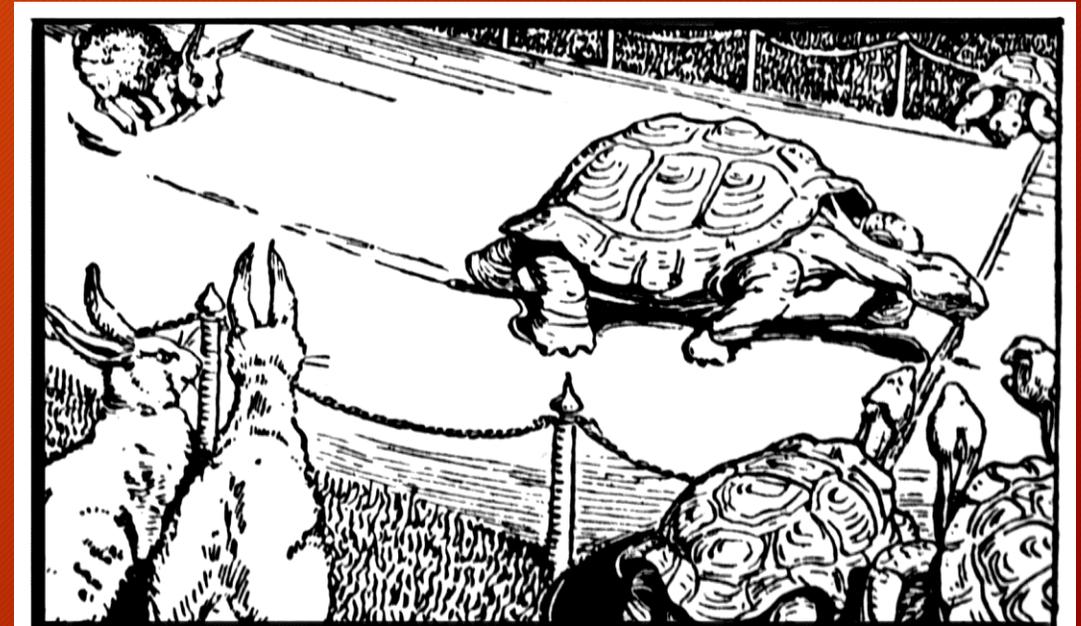
For example: Little Mermaid, Chinese folk tales about respect, and Cinderella



Forms of Folk Literature Continued

5. Fables - brief stories or poems that often feature animal characters who act and speak like humans, and they usually end with a moral

For example: Aesop's Fables



Forms of Folk Literature Continued

6. Epics - long narrative poems important to the history of a nation or culture, and they tell of great hero going on a dangerous journey, or **quest**

For example: Beowulf



Characteristics of Folk Literature

1. Heroes and heroines - larger-than-life figures who over-come obstacles or participate in exciting adventures

Often featured in...myths, legends, epics

2. Trickster - a clever character who can fool others but often gets in trouble

Often featured in...folk tales, fables

Characteristics of Folk Literature Continued

3. Personification - a type of figurative language in which nonhuman subjects are given human qualities

Often featured in...myth, fables

4. Hyperbole - a type of figurative language that uses extreme exaggeration

Often featured in...tall tales, myths, epics

Characteristics of Folk Literature Continued

5. Dialect - language spoken by people in a particular region or group

Often featured in...tall tales, folk tales

Additional Academic Vocabulary

1. Main Idea - what the text is mostly about
2. Supporting Details - additional information that explains, defines, proves, illustrates, clarifies and describes more about a main idea. They can be facts, examples, and statements.
3. Textual Evidence - the details you get from your readings that support your answers and claims

Additional Academic Vocabulary

4. Allusion - an implied or indirect reference in literature to a familiar person, place, or event
5. Analysis - using a close reading of texts to examine the relationships/connections among ideas, details, and/or examples
6. Inference - a judgment based on reasoning rather than on a direct or explicit statement. An understanding based on “reading between the lines”.

Additional Academic Vocabulary

7. Text Dependent Analysis - information based on specific evidence within a reading passage and being able to interpret the meaning