

Traditional Stories

Folk tale - a story that has been passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth

Type of Tale	Characteristics
<u>Myth</u> - a traditional story that was created to explain mysteries of the universe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• often explains how something connected w/ humans or nature came to be• reveals consequences of good & bad behavior• features gods or other beings who have supernatural powers + certain flaws
<u>Legend</u> - A story passed down through many generations that is believed to be based on real people and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• tells about a hero/heroine who has unusual powers• focuses on the hero's struggle to defeat a powerful force• highlights a positive quality or way of behaving
<u>Epic</u> - a long, narrative poem, often written in formal language, that tells about a series of quests undertaken by a great hero	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• follows a quest or journey of a hero who has incredible strength/courage• focuses on the hero's character traits• features hero's tasks such as battles in which the hero is tested
<u>Fable</u> - a brief story that teaches a lesson or moral about human nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• usually includes animal characters that stand for specific human qualities• has a moral that is directly stated at the end or indirectly communicated through what happens in the fable
<u>Tall Tale</u> - a humorously exaggerated story about impossible events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• stars a hero/heroine who is larger than life• uses exaggeration to emphasize the abilities & achievements of the hero/heroine