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SL62. Folktales

Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Instructor: _____ Level: _____ Date: _____

For media links in this activity, visit [the LLC ESL Tutoring website for Upper Level SDLAs](#). Find your SDLA number to see all the resources to finish your SDLA.

Section 1: Introduction

If you have completed SL52, you already know a little bit about folktales. Folktales are traditional stories that are passed from generation to generation within a particular culture. They are usually so old that the author is unknown. They often include magic, princes and princesses, and lessons for children to learn from the story. They can also be a great window into different cultures and their values.

What are some folktales you learned in your childhood?
Which was your favorite?



There are many different types of folktales, including fairytales, myths, fables, legends, and more. Learn more about different types of folktales using the [Section 1 Quizlet set](#). Can you think of another example of each type of folktale? For each type below, try to list an example from your native culture or another culture.

Fairytale:

Myth:

Legend:

Tall tale:

Fable:

Parable:

Note: Different sources may define these terms in different ways, but you can use this as a starting point for your understanding of the different kinds of folktales.





Section 2: Elements of a Folktale

Watch the [Section 2 YouTube video](#) to learn a little bit about the common elements of folktales. Then, read the descriptions below to learn more.



Common Elements of Folktales

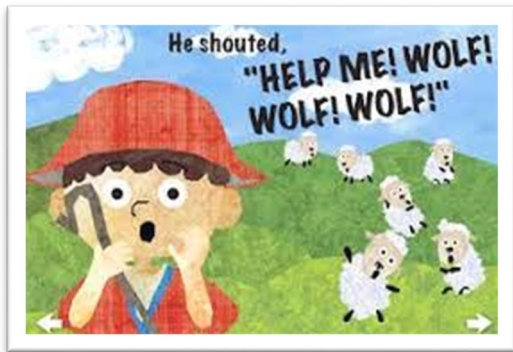
Characters are usually the people in the story, but in folktales, the characters could also be animals, trees, or other objects that talk and act like humans. Most characters in folktales are flat, meaning that their personality doesn't change much throughout the story.



Setting refers to the time and place of the story. In folktales written in English, the setting is often stated simply and the beginning of the story using phrases like “A long time ago in a faraway land” or “Once upon a time”. The setting is usually not very specific.

All folktales contain some kind of **conflict** (a problem) and **resolution** (the solution to the problem). For example, in “Hansel and Gretel,” a young brother and sister find themselves alone with a witch who plans to eat them (conflict). The sister outsmarts the witch and kills her, and the children run away with her treasure (resolution).





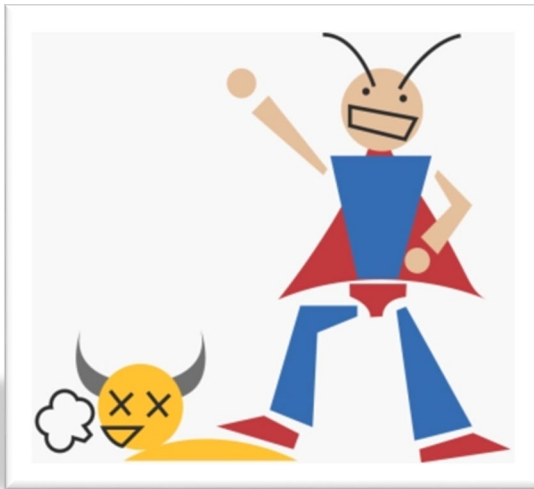
The **moral** is the lesson that the story is trying to teach. For example, in the well-known folktale “The Boy Who Cried Wolf”, the moral is “don’t lie about being in danger or no one will come to save you when you really need help.”



Some folktales, especially myths, don’t have a moral but instead **explain** something about the natural world, human behavior, or why things are the way they are. For example, the myth of Pele, a Hawaiian goddess who became angry when she thought her lover was cheating, is used to explain volcano eruptions.

Almost all folktales contain some elements of **magic**, or things that cannot exist in the real world. Talking animals, magic spells/curses, and extraordinary creatures like dragons are all common in many kinds of folktales.





In most folktales, and especially in fairytales, **good triumphs over evil**. The evil characters are usually killed or left powerless, and the good characters “live happily ever after.” It is common for fairytales to end with a wedding between the main characters.

Finally, because folktales are often very old and passed orally (by word of mouth), they tend to **change over time**. Often the same folktale will have many versions with slightly different details. They might be made into books, movies, TV shows, and even video games. Different cultures might adopt and change a folktale to suit the new culture. The tale of Mulan is a great example of this. Mulan is a Chinese legend that was adapted by Disney in 1998 and again in 2020. The American Disney versions are controversial because they change parts of the story, but it’s important to remember that all folktales experience some change over time.





Section 3: Learn about a Chinese Folktale

The Tale of the White Snake is an ancient Chinese myth that is considered one of China's Four Great Folktales. It has been presented in many different ways: in Chinese operas, TV series, and films. Most recently, there was an award-winning 2019 film called *White Snake* that was released in both Mandarin Chinese and English.



You will [watch a short YouTube video version](#) of this folktale. Make notes about any new vocabulary you heard. You can discuss the new vocabulary with your tutor. After you watch, put the events of the story in order and answer the questions that follow.

New Vocabulary:

Number the events of the story in order from 1 to 7.

- _____ The Old Man gave Bai Su Zhen permission to take the herb.
- _____ Xu Xian died of shock.
- _____ The monk told Xu Xian that his wife is a demon.
- _____ Bai Su Zhen went to the South Pole to get an immortal herb for her husband.
- _____ Bai Su Zhen drank the wine and changed into her snake form.
- _____ Bai Su Zhen fed the herb to Xu Xian and he woke up, happy to see his wife.
- _____ Bai Shu Zhen created a cure for the plague that was hurting the people of the city.





Answer the questions about the story:

What type of folktale is this? _____

Who are the characters?

What is the setting?

What is the moral of the story?

Section 4: Tell Your Own Folktale

Now it's your turn! In this section, you will tell your tutor a folktale. You can use a folktale from your native culture, another culture, or you can make up a new folktale! To get ready to tell your tale, make some notes about the following elements:

Type of folktale

Characters

Setting

Conflict/Resolution





Moral/Explanation of
Nature





Section 5: What Did I Learn

Complete this table BEFORE meeting with a tutor.

| Communication Skill | I can't do this YET.  | I can do this WITH help.  | I can do this WITHOUT help.  | I can TEACH this to a classmate.  |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| I can describe different types of folktales. | | | | |
| I can describe the common elements in folktales. | | | | |
| I can put events from a folktale in order. | | | | |
| I can tell someone else a folktale from my memory, or one that I created. | | | | |

Here are some words/phrases I need to practice.

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Good job!

Now go to the [LLC Tutoring Website](#) and make an appointment with a tutor.

Visit the [Virtual LLC](#) at the time of your appointment.








Section 6: Practice with a Tutor!

After completing the self-assessment, meet with a tutor and give this completed SDLA to the tutor. The tutor will give you feedback.

Grading Rubric

| Possible Points | Need Practice  (0-1 Point) | Good Job  (2-3 Points) | Excellent Work  (4-5 Points) |
|------------------------|---|---|---|
| Content | Not enough information provided in responses and often does not use correct vocabulary. | Provides most important information in responses and some of the time uses correct vocabulary. | Provides all necessary information in responses and most of the time uses correct vocabulary. |
| Skill: Speaking | More than 6 mistakes saying words; needs guessing more than 3 times. | Not more than 5 mistakes saying words; needs guessing on 1-2 words or sentences. | Not more than 2 mistakes saying words; needs no guess about meaning. |
| Oral Fluency | Speaks mostly in phrases, individual words; many pauses. | Sometimes speaks in complete sentences; several pauses. | Speaks in complete sentences; a couple pauses okay. |

*Students must receive at least 10 points to move on

Possible Points: _____ / 15

Tutor Comments:

☐ **Congratulations! Keep going.**

You have successfully completed this SDLA and are ready to continue to the next.

☐ **Work on this more.**

You have not yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that you complete it again.

Tutor Signature: _____

Date: _____

