

PATHFINDER FOLKTALES



There are usually 3 types of folktales:

Aesop style-teaches a moral

Porquoi type of tale: Explains why something is-why a zebra has stripes

Traditional or Universal Tales:

Cinderella, etc.

Some of the common themes to be explored are: "kindness that is later repaid, goodness that is rewarded, evil that loses out in the end, the power of love, trickery at all levels, magic objects, wishes that come true after a task, temptations that lead a character astray.." (*Global Activities*, 2006) as well as creation stories.

Many cultures also have a trickster figure.

Some ideas for essential questions:

Why do we study folktales?

What do folktales tell us about a culture?

Professional Resources
(on the Teacher Shelf)

Global Discovery Activities for the Elementary Grades- a guide to help students learn and appreciate cultures from around the world.

Tales with Tails, Storytelling the Wonders of the Natural World

DATABASE:

Novelist K-8

Teaching With Fiction

Animals in Folklore-Spiders, rabbits, monkeys, coyotes

WEBSITES:

<http://www.aesopfables.com/>

<http://www.mcs.k12.in.us/les/ihnen/folktale.htm>

A unit for 3rd and fourth graders to become storytellers and practice their craft by telling stories to younger pre-schoolers

<http://www.carolhurst.com/subjects/fairytongueincheek.html> Variations of familiar tales with a tongue-in-cheek adaptation

<http://www.americanfolklore.net/> retellings of American folklore from tall tales to spooky stories to myths and legends

<http://www.darsie.net/talesofwonder>

This award-winning site includes the text of folk and fairy tales from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas as well as links to other folk and fairy tale sites. The extensive collection simplifies the process of comparing similar tales from different cultures since all the tales are in one place.

<http://www.usmenglish.com/fairytales/cinderella/cinderella.html>

This University of Southern Mississippi site is the place to go if your students are interested in exploring how tales have changed over time. This collection includes texts and images from a dozen English versions of the Cinderella story.

<http://www.pibburns.com/mythregi.htm>

Myths and Folktales by region



<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/tradless.htm#C>

Books:

Remember the chant 398.2 from Eshu, the storyteller we had? SRV keeps the collection of folktales in its own bookcase. Native-American, Indonesian, Irish, Italian, Turkish, and tales from many cultures will be found here.

Tales for the Pre-school Crowd:

Mabela the Clever - Limba folktale adapted
by Margaret Read MacDonald



Darby, the Tailor – adaptation by Marilyn
Kinsella of “The Tailor” story, a Jewish
version retold by Steve Sanfield in Bit by Bit.
Why the Bear Has A Stumpy Tale a version
in “Why” Stories with Basic Vocabulary by
Edward and Margurite Dolce



Tiddalick the Frog - Australian folktale by
Susan Nunes