

Name: _____

The World of American Folktales

American folktales are stories that have been passed down for many years. People across the country told these tales to teach lessons, laugh, and remember important events. These stories often show heroes who are much bigger, stronger, or braver than real people.

Tall tales are a special kind of folktale. They use exaggeration to make things seem better or more exciting than they really are. Sometimes, a hero might move a mountain or race against the wind! The stories often reflect what was important to people at the time they were written.

When you listen to folktales, remember that they are not true. Instead, they help us understand the hopes, dreams, and values of people from long ago.



Student Name: _____

Date: _____

The World of American Folktales

American folktales are stories that have been (7)
passed down for many years. People across the (15)
country told these tales to teach lessons, laugh, (23)
and remember important events. These stories often (30)
show heroes who are much bigger, stronger, or (38)
braver than real people. (42)

Tall tales are a special kind of folktale. They (51)
use exaggeration to make things seem better or (59)
more exciting than they really are. Sometimes, a (67)
hero might move a mountain or race against the (76)
wind! The stories often reflect what was important (84)
to people at the time they were written. (92)

When you listen to folktales, remember that they (100)
are not true. Instead, they help us understand the (109)
hopes, dreams, and values of people from long ago. (118)

Comprehension Questions:

Literal Question:

What are folktales often used to do?

Answer:

Teach lessons and share laughter.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Inferential Question:

Why do people exaggerate in tall tales?

Answer:

To make stories more exciting or meaningful.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Vocabulary Question:

What does 'exaggeration' mean in the passage?

Answer:

Making something seem bigger or better than it is.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Notes:

Scoring Guide

Text Level: F&P GRL S Grade Level: 4 Word Count: 118

Total Words Read: _____

Errors: _____

WCPM: (total words read — errors = WCPM) _____

WCPM: Below grade level At grade level Above grade level

Prosody: 1 2 3 4

Comprehension: _____ / 3 correct

How to Administer the Fluency Passage Assessment

Assess Oral Reading Fluency

- Give the student a copy of the passage. **Set a timer or stopwatch for 1 minute.**
- Ask the student to begin reading. As the student reads aloud, assess prosody and mark errors and self-corrections on the evaluation copy using the following guides.
- **Stop the student when one minute has passed.** Take note of the last word the student read.
- Score the passage on the evaluation copy according to the **Scoring Guide**. Use the following chart to compare grade level norms for words correctly read per minute.

Marking Conventions	
Attempted Word = Substitution Error	✓ = Accurate Word Reading
^ = Insertion Error	Attempted Word S/C = Self Correction
— = Omission Error	R = Repetition
— = Omission Error	R = Repetition
T = Intervention Error (telling student the word)	

Prosody Rubric	1	2	3	4
Expression and Volume	monotone or quiet	some expression	appropriate expression	varied, natural expression
Phrasing	word-by-word reading	some phrase groupings	generally smooth phrasing	natural, meaningful phrasing
Smoothness	frequent pauses, starts and stops	occasional breaks	mostly smooth reading	fluent and confident
Pace	too slow or too fast	uneven pace	generally appropriate pace	consistent, conversational pace

Grade Level Norms (WCPM) *							
Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring	Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring
First	0 - 10	10 - 50	30 - 90	Fourth	70 - 120	80 - 130	90 - 140
Second	30 - 80	50 - 100	70 - 130	Fifth	80 - 130	90 - 140	100 - 150
Third	50 - 110	70 - 120	80 - 140	Sixth	90 - 140	100 - 150	110 - 160

* Rasinski Words Correct Per Minute Target Rates

Fluency Builder: The World of American Folktales

Passage Details

Grade Level: 4

Reading Level: F&P GRL 5

Word Count: 118

High-Frequency Words

across, better, during, listen, wind

Suggestions for Use

Increase Exposure to High-Frequency Words

- Before reading, introduce the list of high-frequency words in the passage.
- Find the words in the passage. Highlight or underline the words.

Illustrate and Label Extension Activity

- Have students draw and label items mentioned in the passage.

Link to Writing or Discussion

- Encourage knowledge transfer and personal connection by asking:
"Describe a value you think is important in stories."
"Tell about a time you heard a funny or amazing story."

Use for Repeated Readings

Day 1: Teacher reads aloud, then echo read

Day 2: Partner reading

Day 3: One-minute fluency timing and WCPM tracking

Day 4: Performance reading (with expression!)