

Include on the poster board (please leave the back empty for an activity we will do during the class with the 4th grade students) ->

9th graders: in your groups, you will make a colorful and easy-to-read poster board with the following information on it. Remember that the best way to learn something is to teach in. Please include all of the information below and practice how you will explain and teach this to the 4th graders!

Elements of Folktales:

- Folktales are usually about ordinary people and everyday life.
- The stories include setting, characters, and a problem.
- The characters are often flat, representing one particular trait such as cleverness.
- Hyperbole is always found in tall tales.

Common Folktale Motifs:

- wishes granted
- a monster
- magic objects
- use of trickery
- a poor person becomes rich
- the number three is significant
- the youngest or smallest of siblings is successful after others in the family fail
- a variety of unwise characters

The Folktale Formula:

- The plot begins quickly.
- Characters are one-sided.
- Plots move along well-trod paths.
- All questions are answered before the story ends.

Schedule of event for the 4th grade visit:

Block 1 = 9/16/15 to Mr. Hertig

Block 2 = 9/15/15 to Ms. K-J

- Walk to 4th grade!
- Each 4th grade class will be divided into 6 groups (3 each) so please divide your grade 9 class accordingly
- Hello and Ghanaian Welcome
- Introductions and ice breaker (based on finding something in common)
- selection of shorter books from Asare (Goat one) and The Caldecott books. Each group picks the book it wants a ninth grader to read . 9th graders decide who will read ahead of time.
- 9th graders will use large poster board to teach elements of a folktale.

9th grade English - Coming of Age in the World
Mr. Thorpe

Folktale Writing Assignment #2 -
A Tale based on Study of Meshack Asare and Others

We have read tales by Meshack Asare, tales from West Africa, and a few Caldecott award winning children's books set in Africa. We have also looked at African Tales on YouTube. You also prepared for a class to teach younger students about the variations of these tales.

Writing:

For your first expressive writing of the year, you will write your own version of one of these genres. By now you should know which type of tale you are writing and something about the subject matter. Remember these tales are intended to be told! A number of your tales from the entire freshman class will be selected by your individual teachers to be read by the whole English department. The writers of the final tales selected will be the 2015 CA Neustadt Scholars. They will be invited to attend this year's NSK/Neustadt Award Festival in Oklahoma on Oct. 21-24, 2015. Mr. Thorpe, Ms. Kolsun-Jackson, Ms. Perez, and Ms. Coleman, as well as members of the Neustadt family will accompany the winners to Oklahoma. The trip is paid for as part of the Colorado Academy Neustadt Scholar Program, sponsored by the Neustadt Family.

Choices:

1. **Fool's Tale or Trickster Tale:** example Anansi the trickster, a folkloric spider taking both arachnid and human form as best serves his purposes. These stories have African roots.
2. **Tall Tale:** example John Henry African American
3. **Animal Tale:** Example Asare's work.
4. **Folktale about Yourself:** tell a story that teaches a lesson about yourself.
5. **Fairy tale:** "Little Red Riding Hood" Several Versions: Grimm, Perrault, *Into the Woods*

Instructions:

Choose the type of tale that you wish to write from the list below. Follow the relevant suggestions and steps as you write your original folktale.

Writing a Fool's Tale:

Write a "fool's tale," in which a clever character outsmarts a foolish character. Make up or adapt a joke that you have heard, and expand it into a tale.

Prewriting:

Choose a modern setting for your tale. Give each character a name that suggests something about him or her. List the events that will happen in the tale.

Drafting:

Write your tale. Pay special attention to describing the events in the order that they happen. Use dialogue. Remember that your main character must do or believe something silly or stupid.

Revising:

Review the definition of a fool tale. Be sure that your tale fits this definition. If not, draft again before working on the final version.

Writing a Tall Tale:

Make up a tall tale about a modern hero or heroine of tremendous size and strength. Tell how your character solves a problem by using his or her special abilities.

Prewriting:

List the powers of your hero or heroine. Then jot down details about a problem that he or she can solve by using those powers. Put the events of your tale in the correct order.

Drafting:

Exaggerate details about your hero or heroine. Use hyperbole. Follow the order of your events used in your prewriting notes.

Revising:

Share your draft with another student. Ask whether you made the relationship between your events clear. If necessary, write down and evaluate each event to ensure that they are in the correct order and that cause-and-effect relationships are clear.

Writing an Animal Tale:

Write a tale about an animal that has special qualities and powers. The animal can be one that is unusual or imaginary. Use personification. Also, try using similes to describe your animal.

Prewriting:

For your prewriting notes, list some unusual animals and choose one of them. Think about how the animal will show its special qualities. List some similes you might use. Then, list the events of your tale.

Drafting:

In drafting the tale, follow the list of events that you compiled in your prewriting notes. Write at least a paragraph (or more) for each event.

Revising:

Share with your partner and check for clarity and completeness of events and descriptions. Have your partner read your tale to you.

Writing a Folktale About Yourself:

Write a tall tale about an imaginary experience of your own. Use the words "I" and "me" to tell events as if they happened to you. Base the story on one major exaggeration. Use this story starter: "One day, like any other day, I was..."

Prewriting:

Choose the setting for your tale. Decide whether your story will have any other characters. If so, jot down some details about the other characters. List three impossible events and choose one of them as the subject of the major exaggeration.

Drafting:

When drafting this tale, remember to use "me" and "I." Also remember to make the connections between the events clear.

Revising:

Make sure that events in the story relate to the impossible event. Use some clue words such as: first, last, because, since, in order that, if-then, so-that, etc.

Writing a Fairy Tale:

Write a tale that focuses on a unique character who is introduced to magical forces and is given three wishes. The tale should detail the outcome of the character's choices.

Prewriting:

Decide what kind of person your character is, including his or her age and physical details. What are your character's hopes, fears, desires, dreams, problems and/or joys? What does your character do for a living? What is his/her past?

Set up an encounter between your character and a magical force so that your character is granted three wishes. Try to have your character meet the magical force in an unexpected way. Also, try to have the magical force be something that no one has ever thought of before. Have your character ask for his/her three wishes—be specific and original with the wishes. What the character asks for should form the basic problem of your story. Be creative in the resolution of the problem.

Drafting:

As you write, try to build excitement by adding complications to the story after the three wishes are granted and the character begins to make his/her choices. The problem should come to a climax with the character's last wish. In many folktales, the character must use his/her last wish to undo the first two. Alternatively, you may choose to grant the character a fourth wish that does not turn out to be what he/she expects.

Revising:

Share a draft with a partner and check the tale for the following: A clear sense of organization: Does your plot develop in a logical way?

Character development: Does your character act in a fairly consistent manner?

Descriptive details: Do you describe people, places, and events with clear and vivid language? Problem resolution: Do you surprise your reader with your story's end?

Writing an Original Fable

1. Review fables.

2. Next, discuss different ways in which each fable might be updated. For example, the characters might be portrayed as animal characters in a television sitcom or cartoon show.

3. Record students' ideas on the board to help the students who may have more difficulty imagining these fables in a modern setting.

4. Before they begin writing, have students choose a fable and determine the point or moral.

5. Using the guidelines below, students write an original fable.

- Pride leads to a fall.
- The early bird catches the worm.
- Haste makes waste.
- A stitch in time saves nine.
- Don't count your chickens before they hatch.
- Honesty is the best policy.
- You can't judge a book by its cover.
- Look before you leap.

Tell students to make a plan before writing. For the pre-writing stage, encourage students to use graphic organizers (*see below*) to organize their ideas. Students should plan out the following:

- Characters (*for example, a cat and a dog*)
- Setting (*for example, a vacant lot*)
- Events (*for example, a dog encounters a cat who has a piece of meat*)
- Moral (*for example, pick on animals your own size*)

Direct students to follow the order of the original fable or the order of events they listed and to begin writing a first draft.

Oral Narratives Checklist

Name: _____ Date: _____

There are many kinds of oral narratives. After reading or hearing a story, use the checklists below to help you decide which type it is.

<p>Tall Tales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">___ Presented as true accounts___ Usually told in first person___ More and more unusual features are added to the story___ Celebrate the magical aspects of nature___ Popular among all-male groups___ Used to test and initiate newcomers <p>Some tall tales are:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Urban Legends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">___ Contemporary themes, situations___ May or may not be true___ Told by males and females of all ages___ Express anxieties about rapidly changing society___ Have plausible beginnings, but grow more and more fantastic___ Often found on the Internet <p>Some urban legends are:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Legends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">___ Local heroes and characters who have made their mark on Louisiana___ Tell about specific local characters, e.g., the Longs, Jean Lafitte___ Sometimes in verse or song___ Actual events with fictitious characters___ History and supernatural meets, as in "buried treasure" legends <p>Some legends are:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Trickster Tales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">___ Usually feature a sly animal or human character___ Trickster serves as a hero for the powerless___ Hero is sometimes amoral or immoral___ Hero does not always win <p>Some trickster tales are:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>