

Once Upon a Time...

Writing Folktales

Folktale Task:

Write your own folktale. It needs to be at least 250 words of the equivalent. You need to make sure that you follow the formula for a folktale and that you include the elements. Read through *Writing an Original Folktale*.

You can present your folktale as a podcast, prezi or written (you may include pictures)

What are Folktales?

Folktales are a part of the culture and heritage in every culture and country around the world. Folktales are stories of animals that act like humans, enchanted kingdoms, heroes, unusual people who lives in a world of wonder and magic having supernatural powers. Most of these stories convey a message or moral to the reader, or explain something in a creative way. This genre of literature grew from the oral tradition of storytelling which has been there for thousands of years and these stories are passed down and retold from generation to generation.

Elements of Folktales:

- Folktales are usually about ordinary people and everyday life
- The stories include setting, characters, and a problem
- The characters often represent one particular trait such as cleverness
- Hyperbole is always found in tall tales
- Dialogue is always used (direct speech)

Common Folktale Motifs:

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

The Folktale Formula:

- The plot begins quickly
- There are few characters
- Plots follow familiar storylines
- All questions are answered before the story ends

Types of Folktales:

- tales of talking animals
- tales that tell why ("pourquoi")
- tales of magic (fairy tales)
- tales of exaggeration or legendary tales (tall tales)

Writing Folktales

Vocabulary

folktale:	A story, often with mythical or legendary elements, made and handed down among the common people.
motif:	A main element, idea, or feature to be elaborated on or developed
traditional:	Handed down, customary to a people
climax:	The final element or event in a series; in literature, it is the turning point of the story
hyperbole:	An exaggeration not meant to be taken literally. Example: This story is as old as time
tasks:	In folk/fairy tales a “task” is a specific assignment or mission that a character must complete
magic powers:	There are forces of good and evil along which the plot moves
character traits:	The characters of the story must have specific things they do, say or think or look like

Writing an Original Folktale

Outline for Writing a Story:

Most stories share a common organisation and progression. Follow this outline as you write your folktale.

I. Beginning

Introduce the main character
Describe the setting
Begin the plot

II. Middle

Introduce the character’s problem
Introduce minor characters
Build toward the point of highest interest, or climax

III. Ending

Reach the point of highest interest
Wind down the action, and give the final outcome

SourceL www.learnpk.org