

thinking ALOUD

Making Sense of Literacy



SPOT: Folktales, Fairy Tales, & Fables

*Jumping Into Genre: Folklore
(developing wide reading)*



Scene	Full Transcript
1	<p>Skylar: Puh.thppt! Uh! I hate getting pixie dust in my mouth. Today, I'm jumping into the enchanted and whimsical world of fairy tales, folktales, and fables! Here, your reading will lead you through fanciful tales of adventure where you'll encounter everything from menacing villains and fun-loving fools to talking mirrors and magical lamps!</p>
2	<p>Skylar: Folktales, fairy tales, and fables are all part of the genre of folklore. Storytellers have told and retold these stories over and over, throughout the ages, each in their own way. Did you know that every country has its own folklore? They do! The stories reflect the customs, values, virtues, and even goals of the cultures in which they were first told.</p>
3	<p>Skylar: Now, while the invention of Guttenberg's printing press in 1450 did allow these oral stories to be printed for the first time, there was never one "correct" version. Each retelling was slightly different and therefore correct in its own way.</p>
4	<p>Skylar: Folktales have key characteristics:</p> <p>The purpose is to entertain the reader with a quick moving story.</p> <p>They often begin with a brief mention of a vague setting, "Once upon a time in a far, far away land."</p> <p>We never know a lot about the characters in the folktale other than basic details, like if they are good or evil, kind or beautiful. Sometimes characters appear as talking animals with human characteristics. The animals that appear in folktales reflect where the stories came from. So you wouldn't have a zebra in Germany or a fish story from a desert region. Make sense?</p> <p>The plot remains rather simple, often revolving around some type of conflict.</p> <p>Endings, or resolutions, are quick and to-the-point.</p>
5	<p>Skylar: Finally, you'll notice that folktales use repetitions. Think about the three little pigs, the three houses, and the three tries by the big bad wolf. And patterns, "fe, fi, fo, fum." These engage the listener and to help the teller remember the story.</p>
6	<p>Skylar: Cumulative tales are an example of a type of folktale. They provide the reader a growing list of details that build up to a quick climax, or high point in the story. Remember how fast the gingerbread boy could run? How the sky was falling on Chicken Little? And who lived in the house that Jack built?</p>

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7	Skylar: My favorite, humorous tales, revolve around the character making a series of silly mistakes.
8	Skylar: Fairy tales, which are another type of folklore, bring together elves, witches, fairy godparents, and genies using magic words and objects to create entertaining stories for the reader.
9	Skylar: Fables, on the other hand, offer the reader a moral lesson or truth that can be learned at the end of story. The characters chosen for the story may represent, or symbolize, human qualities. Think about the tortoise and the hare, "slow and steady wins the race," or warnings not to "put off until tomorrow what should be done to day."
10	Skylar: Folktales, fairy tales, and fables! Check them out! Because folklore is so tied to different cultures, countries, and value systems, it's shelved in the nonfiction. You can find it in the 398s at your library.
11	Skylar: Oh no! Not more pixie dust! Until next time, keep genre jumping! Whoa!

