

## Tall Tale Practice Activities

Directions: Join with a family member or friend and create an outline for a Tall Tale. To accomplish this:

1. Read a few famous Tall Tales together. Good examples are:
  - a. Johnny Appleseed
  - b. Paul Bunyan
  - c. John Henry
  - d. Pecos Bill
  - e. Sally Ann Crockett
2. After reading a few Tall Tales, decide on a setting for your story.
  - a. Where could your story take place?
  - b. What will the location look like?  
\*Try to be as descriptive as possible!
3. Then, decide on the characters for your story.
  - a. Who is the main character?
  - c. Who will the minor characters be?  
\*What kinds of characters make sense for the setting you have developed? Try to be as descriptive as possible!
4. Decide on the problem of the story.
  - a. What is the problem the main character encounters?
  - b. How does the main character solve the problem in the end?  
\*Remember, try to highly exaggerate the account of how the main character solves the problem. Have fun with this!
5. As a challenge, write this story.

### Epics, Legends, and Tall Tales

are stories of human adventure and heroism. Most are not very realistic, though some do contain grains of truth, so they sound like they could have happened.

#### Epics

- Long, complex poems or stories that centered on the actions of a single character.
- The plot has the hero caught in a struggle between good and evil.

The hero is able to survive by using his/her intelligence instead of just their brute strength.

#### Legends

- A hero tale that is based on a real, or supposedly real person and the marvelous deeds they did.

- These are based on fact, but the storytellers added a lot of imagination and fiction to make the story more interesting.

### **Tall Tales**

- Highly exaggerated account of a person's accomplishments.
- These were very humorous and fun.
- They combined history with a little bit of fact and a whole lot of imagination.
- They attempted to show everyday people as larger than life.
- They helped early settlers in America deal with the harshness of life.
- Famous examples include: Davey Crockett, Johnny Appleseed, Paul Bunyan, John Henry, Pecos Bill, and Sally Ann Crockett.