**Homework for August 30, 2010**

**Oral Tradition: Tall Tales**

**Directions:** Answer the questions below on a separate piece of notebook paper. Remember to use a proper heading (your name, the date, your period, and Ms. Fetbroth).

1. A tall tale is one genre of oral tradition. A genre is a: (1 point)

a.) Book title

b.) Type or kind of literature

c.) Funny story

2. What word best describes the details of a tall tale? (1 point)

a.) Exaggerated

b.) True

c.) Boring

3. Characters in tall tales are usually characterized as: (1 point)

a.) Normal, everyday people

b.) Super-human and larger-than-life

c.) Angry and mean

*Complete the following tall tale exaggerations*: (2 points each)

4. He ran so fast \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. He fell so hard \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Read the tall tale of Pecos Bill. Answer the questions that follow.*

**Pecos Bill Rides a Tornado: A Kansas Tall Tale**

**retold by** **S.E. Schlosser**

Now everyone in the West knows that Pecos Bill could ride anything. No bronco could throw him, no sir! Fact is, I only heard of Bill getting' thrown once in his whole career as a cowboy. Yep, it was that time he was up Kansas way and decided to ride him a tornado.

Now Bill wasn't going to ride just any tornado, no ma'am. He waited for the biggest gosh-darn tornado you ever saw. It was turning the sky black and green, and roaring so loud it woke up the farmers away over in China. Well, Bill just grabbed that tornado, pushed it to the ground and jumped on its back. The tornado whipped and whirled and sidewinded and generally cussed its bad luck all the way down to Texas. Tied the rivers into knots, flattened all the forests so bad they had to rename one place the Staked Plains. But Bill just rode along all calm-like, give it an occasional jab with his spurs.

Finally, that tornado decided it wasn't getting this cowboy off its back, no-way. So it headed west to California and just rained itself out. It made so much water it washed out the Grand Canyon. That tornado was down to practically nothing when Bill finally fell off. He hit the ground so hard it sank below sea level. Folks call the spot Death Valley.

Anyway, that's how the rodeo got started. Though most cowboys just stick to broncos these days.

6. How do you know this is a tall tale? (4 points)

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7. How does the author characterize Pecos Bill in this story? (4 points)

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8. What was the only time Pecos Bill got thrown from riding? (1 point)

a.) During a rodeo

b.) When he decided to ride a tornado

c.) When he rode a wave in the ocean

9. Which of the following is NOT an example of a tall-tale exaggeration found in the story?

a.) “roaring so loud it woke the farmers over in China.”

b.) “He hit the ground so hard it sank below sea level.”

c.) “That’s how the rodeo got started.”

**Grammar Basics: Nouns and Pronouns**

(use the same sheet of paper to answer the questions below)

**Part 1: Identify the thirteen nouns in the sentences below.**

1. Businesses sometimes use gigantic objects to advertise their products.

2. A stand that sells fruit might look like an enormous orange complete with doors and windows.

3. A restaurant in Austin, Texas, had a delivery van shaped like a dinosaur.

**Part 2: Identify the nine pronouns found in the paragraph below.**

One of the most well-known fairy tales is “Little Red Riding Hood.” There are hundreds of versions of this story throughout the world. In the most popular version in America, Little Red Riding Hood is saved by a woodsman, who cuts her out of a wolf’s belly. In other versions, Little Red Riding Hood tricks the wolf into

letting her out. I find these versions more satisfying, because Little Red saves herself through her own ingenuity rather than being rescued.