**Oral Tradition Review: Tall Tales, Myths and Fables**

**Tall Tales: Key Points**

* A tall tale is a funny, unbelievable story that is completely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but is told as if it is true. Traditionally, they were told for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and have been passed down for hundreds of years.
* The details in tall tales are extremely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The characters in tall tales are usually characterized as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Davy Crockett and the Frozen Dawn**

**A Tennessee Tall Tale**

**retold by S.E. Schlosser**

One winter, it was so cold that the dawn froze solid. The sun got caught between two ice blocks, and the earth iced up so much that it couldn't turn. The first rays of sunlight froze halfway over the mountaintops. They looked like yellow icicles dripping towards the ground.

Now Davy Crockett was headed home after a successful night hunting when the dawn froze up so solid. Being a smart man, he knew he had to do something quick or the earth was a goner. He had a freshly killed bear on his back, so he whipped it off, climbed right up on those rays of sunlight and began beating the hot bear carcass against the ice blocks which were squashing the sun. Soon a gush of hot oil burst out of the bear and it melted the ice. Davy gave the sun a good hard kick to get it started, and the sun's heat unfroze the earth and started it spinning again. So Davy lit his pipe on the sun, shouldered the bear, slid himself down the sun rays before they melted and took a bit of sunrise home in his pocket.

1. How do we know this is a tall tale? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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2. How is Davy Crockett characterized in this story? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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3. List one tall-tale exaggeration from this story:

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4. Finish the following tall-tale exaggerations:

He was so fast \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

He was so strong \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Myths: Key Points**

* Myths are stories connected to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the culture that created them. They were used to explain how things happened and to teach people important life lessons.
* Myths usually have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as their characters.
* Myths often show \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ relationships, which help the reader to figure out the purpose of the myth.

**Dangerous Heights: The Story of Daedalus and Icarus**

Daedalus was a famous inventor who spent many years working for King Minos. One day, one of his inventions failed, and the King, being angry, decided to punish him.

“As your punishment, you shall be imprisoned in the inescapable maze you created! And you must take your son Icarus with you!’” the King boomed.

That night, Daedalus and his son Icarus were led to the center of the maze. The guard carried candles to light the way.

“Dad, it’s so dark in here! I’m scared!” Icarus cried.

“Guard, please have mercy on us and leave us some candles,” Daedalus asked.

Since the guard had a son about the same age as Icarus, he took pity in them and left some candles behind.

“What are we going to do now, Father? Don’t you know the way out of here?” Icarus asked.

“No son, not even I know the way out, and even if we did find our way, Minos would put us right back in here,” Daedalus sighed.

The next morning, Daedalus awoke to the sound of birds chirping. When he opened his eyes, he remembered with dismay where he was. He watched as a bird gobbled up a worm for breakfast and flew away from the maze. Suddenly, Daedalus had an idea.

“I know! We’ll fly out of here! I’ll create us wings! It’s our only hope!” Daedalus said.

Daedalus and Icarus spent the next few days gathering all the feathers they could find. Then Daedalus created two sets of wings by gluing the feathers together with hot wax from the candles.

“Dad, are you done yet? How much longer?” Icarus asked annoyingly.

“You asked that five minutes ago. Have patience, son,” Daedalus said.

At last the wings were finished. The father and son put on their wings and practiced taking off and landing. Icarus could not wait to take to the sky.

“Just remember—if you fly too low, the ocean water will splash your wings and weigh you down. And if you fly too high, the sun will melt the wax on your wings. You must follow me and stick the middle course.

Early the next morning, they flew up and away, just like birds. Daedalus looked behind him and all he could see of the maze was a tiny spot of green, getting smaller and smaller until they flew completely out of its sight. The sky was bright and beautiful, the air was cool, and the sun shone pleasantly on him. He began to relax and became tired.

Icarus, full of energy, flapped ahead of his father, excited to see everything the sky had to offer. He wanted to fly right through a fluffy white cloud, just to see what it felt like. He flew higher and higher, but the clouds were always above him, just out of reach. Determined, Icarus flapped even harder.

As he got higher and higher, he began to feel hotter, and sweat started to drip from his forehead. Suddenly, he felt something hot drip on his arm, and realized it was the wax, melting from the sun’s hot rays. Icarus called to his father for help, but soon realized he had gone too high, just like his father had warned him about, and his father was too far behind. Feathers began to fall in clumps from his wings and then, Icarus himself began to fall—down, down, down—toward the sea below.

**Cause and Effect in Daedalus and Icarus**

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What is the purpose of the myth of Daedalus and Icarus? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Fables: Key Points**

* Fables are very short stories that teach a lesson or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This lesson or moral is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and is the main point the author is trying to make.
* The characters in most fables are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**The Man, the Boy, and the Donkey**

A Man and his son were once going with their Donkey to market. As they were walking along by its side a countryman passed them and said: "You fools, what is a Donkey for but to ride upon?"

So the Man put the Boy on the Donkey and they went on their way. But soon they passed a group of men, one of whom said: "See that lazy youngster, he lets his father walk while he rides."

So the Man ordered his Boy to get off, and got on himself. But they hadn't gone far when they passed two women, one of whom said to the other: "Shame on that lazy father to let his poor little

son trudge along."

Well, the Man didn't know what to do, so finally he decided to pull his son up on the Donkey before him. By this time they had come to the town, and the people began to point at the man and his son and shout. The people said: "Aren't you ashamed of yourself for overloading that poor donkey

with you and your heavy son?”

The Man and Boy got off the Donkey and tried to decide what to do. They didn’t want to upset anyone, so they tried to figure out a way to make sure everyone agreed with how they were handling their donkey. Finally, they cut down a pole, tied to the donkey’s feet to it, and raised the pole and the donkey to their shoulders. They went along the streets of the town until they came to Market Bridge, when the Donkey, getting one of his feet loose, kicked his leg and caused the Boy to drop his pole. The Donkey then fell over the bridge, and because his feet were tied together, drowned in the river.

“That will teach you,” an old man watching from nearby said, “ that you can’t please everyone.”

The theme of this story is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

What is the purpose of a fable? Use evidence from this fable to prove your point:

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**The 8 Parts Of Speech**

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| **Part of Speech** | **Definition** | **Examples** | **Practice** |
| **Noun** | Describes a person, place, thing, or idea | boy, car, Henderson, peace, Barack Obama, school, Disney World | The boy and his family went to King’s Dominion last weekend. |
| **Pronoun** | A word that takes the place of a noun | I, we, you, him, she, they, myself, who, what | He called her to see when she wanted to leave for school. |
| **Verb** | Words that show action or being | jump, run, talk, live, think, do, wait, stay | The teacher asked the students not to talk or be loud. |
| **Adjective** | Describes a noun or pronoun | funny, purple, five, which, pretty, exhausted | The crying girl begged her annoyed mother to buy the expensive purse. |
| **Adverb** | Describes a verb, adverb, or other verb  Hint: usually end in –ly, but not always! | early, extremely, softly, perfectly | The boy was highly allergic to bees, and was especially careful when outside. |
| **Preposition** | Shows direction | on, in, under, between, besides | She lives across town beside the grocery store. |
| **Conjunction** | Connects, words, phrases, or clauses | and, but, or, yet, so | I need to go to the eye doctor and the dentist, but I should go to the eye doctor first. |
| **Interjection** | Expresses emotions or feelings | wow, oops, ouch, uh-oh, yahoo | Whoa! Wait a minute! |

**Identifying Parts of Speech**

Directions: In each of the following sentences, identify each underlined word or word group as a noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction or interjection.

1. Lebron James, who became the youngest person to play in the NBA, is from Ohio.

2. All of the episodes from that show have been interesting.

3. I made myself a pimento cheese sandwich to take along.

4. This copy of the magazine is hers.

5. I wondered whose sculptures were on exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Art.

6. That is the third time Luisa has called me today.

7. “Wow, that was the fastest fly ball I’ve ever seen!” exclaimed Maria.

8. Jamia told herself she was going to finish her homework before dinner.

9. Which of the liquids in the smaller container is clear?

10. Are those the trees Mr. Crawford told you about?

11. One of the oldest themes in literature is honor.

12. The cast of the film includes many famous people, like Snoop Dog.

13. Erika and Mike wrote the screenplay together.

14. Those clothes were well-made and extremely stylish.

15. We were warned not to be late.

16. Warn them about the pothole beside the sidewalk.

17. Marcel was coming down with a cold, but he felt like he had to go to school.

18. Alex enjoys reading because it helps to increase his knowledge.