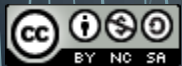


The Oral Tradition



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What is Oral Tradition?

- Information passed down through the generations by word of mouth that is not written down.



Types of Oral Literature

- MYTHS

- Told by particular people (Greeks, Romans, Indians, Egyptians...)
- Linked to religious beliefs and rituals.
- Help to explain the unknown.
- Gods, goddesses, men, women, HEROES.
- Sometimes, moral in the story.



Types of Oral Literature



- LEGENDS

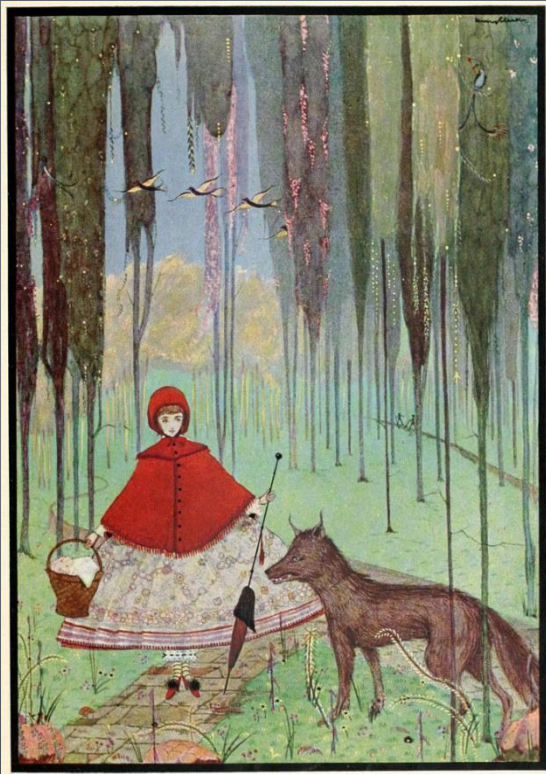
- Important meaning for the culture where they originate.
- Based on historical facts.
- Includes fantastic or unverified elements.

Types of Oral Literature

- FOLK TALES

- Popular stories passed on in spoken form, from one generation to the next.
- Unknown author.
- Many versions of the tale.
- Include fairy tales, fables and even urban legends.

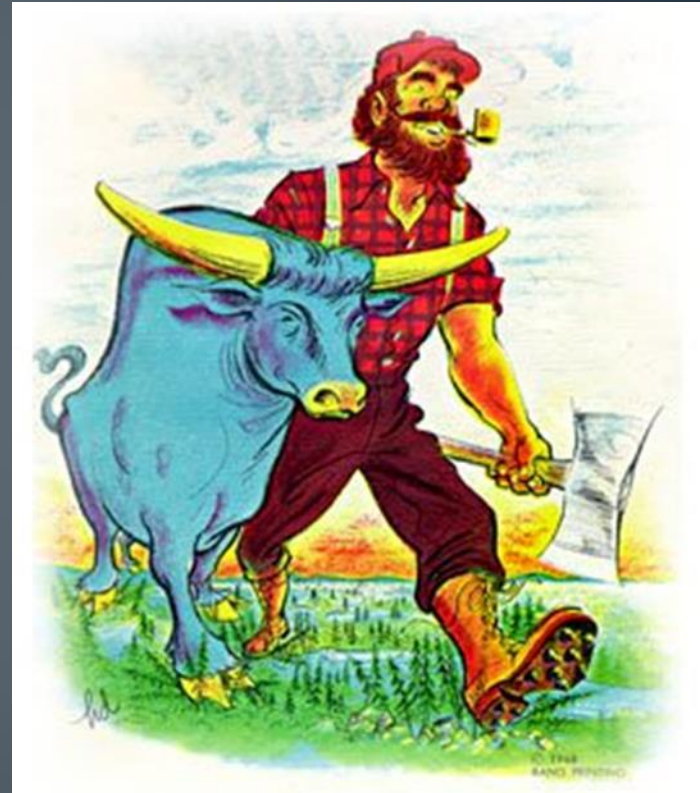
Types of Folk Tales



- FAIRY TALES
 - Stories (usually for children) involving magical events and imaginary creatures.
 - Not always a happy ending.
 - Similar plots characters and motifs in different cultures.

Types of Folk Tales

- TALL TALES
 - Highly exaggerated.
 - Humorous and light-hearted.
 - Main character – extraordinary.
 - Popular in 18th Century United States.



Types of Folk Tales



- FABLES

- Short tales to teach a moral lesson.
- Usually animals as characters.
- Ends with a proverb – moral of the story..

Types of Oral Literature

- PARABLES



- Didactic stories.
- Moral lesson.
- Taught by Jesus (New Testament).
- People as main characters.

Types of Oral Literature

- EPICS
 - Long stories often in verse.
 - Gods and heroes.
 - Portrait of an entire culture.
 - Include legends, beliefs, values, laws, arts, and ways of life of people



For next week:

- You'll get assigned a type of oral literature. Find an example and present it to your classmates.

