

## Writing an Original Folktale

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### Instructions:

Choose the type of tale that you wish to write from the list below. Follow the relevant suggestions and steps as you write your original folktale.

### Writing a Fool's Tale:

Write a "fool's tale," in which a clever character outsmarts a foolish character. Make up or adapt a joke that you have heard, and expand it into a tale.

#### Prewriting:

Choose a modern setting for your tale. Give each character a name that suggests something about him or her. List the events that will happen in the tale.

#### Drafting:

Write your tale. Pay special attention to describing the events in the order that they happen. Use dialogue. Remember that your main character must do or believe something silly or stupid.

#### Revising:

Review the definition of a fool tale. Be sure that your tale fits this definition. If not, draft again before working on the final version.

### Writing a Tall Tale:

Make up a tall tale about a modern hero or heroine of tremendous size and strength. Tell how your character solves a problem by using his or her special abilities.

#### Prewriting:

List the powers of your hero or heroine. Then jot down details about a problem that he or she can solve by using those powers. Put the events of your tale in the correct order.

#### Drafting:

Exaggerate details about your hero or heroine. Use hyperbole. Follow the order of your events used in your prewriting notes.

#### Revising:

Share your draft with another student. Ask whether you made the relationship between your events clear. If necessary, write down and evaluate each event to ensure that they are in the correct order and that cause-and-effect relationships are clear.

### **Writing an Animal Tale:**

Write a tale about an animal that has special qualities and powers. The animal can be one that is unusual or imaginary. Use personification. Also, try using similes to describe your animal.

#### **Prewriting:**

For your prewriting notes, list some unusual animals and choose one of them. Think about how the animal will show its special qualities. List some similes you might use. Then, list the events of your tale.

#### **Drafting:**

In drafting the tale, follow the list of events that you compiled in your prewriting notes. Write at least a paragraph (or more) for each event.

#### **Revising:**

Share with your partner and check for clarity and completeness of events and descriptions. Have your partner read your tale to you.

### **Writing a Folktale About Yourself:**

Write a tall tale about an imaginary experience of your own. Use the words "I" and "me" to tell events as if they happened to you. Base the story on one major exaggeration. Use this story starter: "One day, like any other day, I was..."

#### **Prewriting:**

Choose the setting for your tale. Decide whether your story will have any other characters. If so, jot down some details about the other characters. List three impossible events and choose one of them as the subject of the major exaggeration.

#### **Drafting:**

When drafting this tale, remember to use "me" and "I." Also remember to make the connections between the events clear.

#### **Revising:**

Make sure that events in the story relate to the impossible event. Use some clue words such as: first, last, because, since, in order that, if-then, so-that, etc.

## Writing a Fairy Tale:

Write a tale that focuses on a unique character who is introduced to magical forces and is given three wishes. The tale should detail the outcome of the character's choices.

### Prewriting:

Decide what kind of person your character is, including his or her age and physical details. What are your character's hopes, fears, desires, dreams, problems and/or joys? What does your character do for a living? What is his/her past?

Set up an encounter between your character and a magical force so that your character is granted three wishes. Try to have your character meet the magical force in an unexpected way. Also, try to have the magical force be something that no one has ever thought of before. Have your character ask for his/her three wishes—be specific and original with the wishes. What the character asks for should form the basic problem of your story. Be creative in the resolution of the problem.

### Drafting:

As you write, try to build excitement by adding complications to the story after the three wishes are granted and the character begins to make his/her choices. The problem should come to a climax with the character's last wish. In many folktales, the character must use his/her last wish to undo the first two. Alternatively, you may choose to grant the character a fourth wish that does not turn out to be what he/she expects.

### Revising:

Share a draft with a partner and check the tale for the following:

A clear sense of organization: Does your plot develop in a logical way?

Character development: Does your character act in a fairly consistent manner?

Descriptive details: Do you describe people, places, and events with clear and vivid language?

Problem resolution: Do you surprise your reader with your story's end?