

Types of Folktales

A Fool's Tale

In a "fool's tale," a clever character outsmarts a foolish character. One way to get started is to make up or adapt a joke that you have heard, and expand it into a tale.

A Tall Tale

A tall tale centers around a hero or heroine of tremendous size and strength. To write the tale, you might tell how your character solves a problem by using his or her special abilities.

An Animal Tale

In this tale, the central character is an animal that has special qualities and powers. The animal can be one that is unusual or imaginary. To create a memorable animal character, use personification and try using similes to describe your animal.

A Folktale About Yourself

You can create a tall tale about an imaginary experience of your own. Base the story on one major exaggeration and use the words "I" and "me" to tell events as if they happened to you. An effective way to start the story is to begin with an ordinary event and build to something extraordinary. You might use a story starter such as: "One day, like any other day, I was..."

A Fairy Tale

A fairy tale focuses on a unique character who is introduced to magical forces. An interesting scenario is to grant the character three wishes and detail the outcome (positive and/or negative) of the character's choices.