



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction ..... 4

2. Getting Ready ..... 5

Step 1: Instructions for the Substitute ..... 6  
Step 2: Schedules, Procedures, Student Lists and Other Important  
information ..... 7  
Step 3: Setting Up the Day's Activities ..... 9  
Step 4: How to Store Your "Unsinkable Sub" Activities ..... 9  
Step 5: Getting Students Ready for a Successful Day with a Substitute .. 9  
Step 6: A Substitute Survey ..... 10

## 3. Themes

Tall Tales (2 days) ..... 12  
Quilting (1 day) ..... 28  
Poetic Fun (1-2 days)..... 51  
Probability (1 day)..... 71  
Color My World (1 day) ..... 95  
Our Solar System (1 day)..... 107  
Read All About It! Newspaper Day (1 day) ..... 126  
Hand Jive (1 day) ..... 153  
Number Study (1-2 days)..... 174  
From A to Z (1 day) ..... 198  
Calendars ..... 216



# GETTING READY

This section contains explicit instructions on how to set up each group of activities so they are ready to go.

The first thing you need to decide is how to organize the 10 units, including all necessary materials. There are many ways you can do this. A few suggestions include:

- A large, laminated manila envelope, labeled, with all materials needed inside. Store all 10 in a large box, tub or container.
- A file cabinet drawer with a file set up for each unit along with all the materials needed. Label drawer *Unsinkable Sub Activities*.
- Large zipper-shut plastic bags, one for each theme, all stored in a large box, tub or container.

It all depends on your room setup and your personal preferences. Once you have decided which method to use, you are ready to begin with Step 1. (For the purpose of demonstrating these directions, we will assume you are using envelopes as your organizational system.)





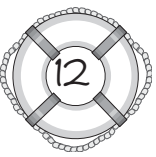
# TALL TALES

This Tall Tales unit will take students through a series of activities that will help them recognize the unique elements of tall tales as a literary genre. The unit culminates in original and creatively presented tall tales. This unit is recommended for use during more than a single day. It requires time to complete successfully. The activities should be used sequentially.

**Special Note for Teachers:** 1) Prior to beginning the activities, check out as many tall tales as your school library permits. Ideally, you want one tale for each student in the class. 2) It will be helpful to pre-arrange to have a parent volunteer or teacher's aide in the classroom for Activities 6 and 7.

## Activities

1. **Tall Tale Vocabulary:** Introduce students to exaggeration and hyperbole (60 minutes)
2. **Spiderweb Story:** Practice exaggeration (45 minutes)
3. **The Elements of a Tall Tale:** What makes a tall tale a tall tale? (45 minutes)
4. **Making Comparisons:** Compare and contrast tall tales and tall tale heroes (60 minutes)
5. **Your Turn!** Teacher-guided, student-generated tall tales (two 60-minute sessions)
6. **Presenting the Tall Tale:** An artistic presentation of student work (2 hours or more)



# Tall Tale Vocabulary

Activity **1**

## Materials

“Introducing Exaggeration” handout (page 14) for each pair of students  
pencils  
a tall tale from the library to read aloud

*Time Frame:* 60 minutes

## Directions

1. Begin by making the following statement to the class: “I was so tired after my busy weekend that I could have slept all day!”
2. Ask the class if they believe it to be a true statement. Some student will undoubtedly claim it to be unlikely for one to sleep for an entire day. See if anyone in the class can define the term *exaggeration*. Ask for examples of exaggeration.
3. Introduce the term *hyperbole*, which is an extreme form of exaggeration.  
Exaggeration: I was so tired I could have slept the whole day through!  
Hyperbole: I was so tired I could have slept for a month!
4. Distribute “Introducing Exaggeration” reproducible page to pairs of students. Guide the class through the top portion of the page. Then have students complete the page with their partners.
5. Choose a tall tale and read it aloud to the class. Then discuss examples of exaggeration and hyperbole from the story.

TALL TALES