

# FOLKFEST

## UNIT OVERVIEW

In this festival of fun, students travel to many far away lands immersing themselves in the fabulous, fantastic world of folktales. Part I provides a structured, teacher-centered approach focusing on the general characteristics of folktales and some of the many “genre” including legends, riddles and the trickster stories. Creative writing activities form the bulk of assignments in this section. Part II consists of optional activities building flexibility into the unit. Part III involves the creation of a “**Folktale Booklet**” in which students are given freedom to choose and study their own folktales in completing a major project. Part IV includes a selection of well-loved folktales which teachers can use in conjunction with the unit to supplement their own sources of folktales. The rich storytelling traditions of cultures throughout the world are brought to life in this amazing unit.

## PART I - TEACHING LESSONS

In this section, students learn about folktales and their characteristics. A storyteller approach with creative writing assignments helps students to initially explore folktales in a structured setting.

- 1) **What Are Folktales?** “Wee Wee Manny And Big Big Coo” - Worksheet
- 2) **Legends** “How Turtle Got A Cracked Shell” - Creative Writing
- 3) **Same Old Story** “Strong Wind’s Bride / Cinderella” - Comparison Worksheet
- 4) **Riddle Me Silly** “The Wolf, The Goat, The Yam and The Boat” - Creative Writing
- 5) **Trickster Tales** “Brer Rabbit And Tar Baby” - Reader’s Theatre
- 6) **Illustrate A Story** “The Sausage” - Illustrate A Story

## PART II - OPTIONAL LESSONS

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Professional Storyteller | 7) Easter Egg Colouring   |
| 2) Reading Buddy            | 8) Folktale Play          |
| 3) Tape Recorder            | 9) Animated Folktales     |
| 4) Folk Feast               | 10) Internet Folktales    |
| 5) Folk Songs               | 11) Enrichment Crossword  |
| 6) Write A Folktale         | 12) Obligatory Wordsearch |

## PART III - FOLKTALE BOOKLETS

This main section of the unit involves the creation of a “**Folktale Booklet**” by each student as they study from a list of selected folktales. This major project is quite intensive and time consuming.

## PART IV - SELECTED FOLKTALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

A number of favourite folktales from various lands have been selected to give teachers and students more freedom in their choices for Part II. As well, a number of other possible sources of good folktales is listed.



**LESSON #6 - ILLUSTRATE A STORY**

**Student Objectives and Activities**

- Students read the Swedish tale entitled, "The Sausage", and illustrate the story.

**Suggested Teaching Strategies**

- Divide students into pairs to read this short story. Students read aloud to each other, with students each taking turns. In keeping with the oral tradition of the unit, encourage students to use as much expression as possible.
- After students have read the story, they create illustrations for the story, by first outlining in pencil and then using pencil crayons to complete the pictures. Empty boxes have been left in the story providing space for the illustrations.

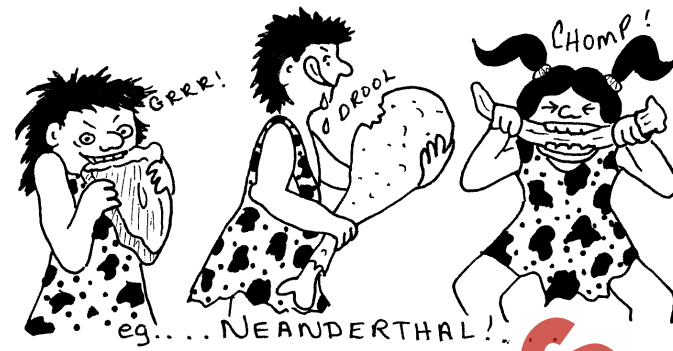
**\*\*\* Note \*\*\***

One variation on this lesson is to have older students read this story to a "reading buddy" in a younger grade, with the younger student doing the illustrations. (See Optional Lesson #2)



**Optional Lesson #4 - Folk Feast**

Students choose a particular culture and bring to school a traditional meal representing that culture. This is a great way to end the unit. (Teachers with a dangerous level of enthusiasm can take this a step further and combine this meal with cultural dress and even an integrated unit in social studies)



**Optional Lesson #5 - Folksongs (Troubadour)**

During music class, students learn about folksongs from around the world. A particular folksong from a culture or land is an excellent way of introducing a folktale from that land. Combining a story with music is a way of illustrating how entertainers/troubadours travelled from village to village sharing news, music, stories and history.



**FOLKTALE CROSSWORD**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**Across**

1. What nationality was Hans Christian Andersen?
4. Folktales that tell a moral lesson.
5. Fictional stories are this.
7. A folktale that challenges you to solve it is of the \_\_\_\_\_ genre.
9. The story "Strong Wind's Bride" resembles this fairytale.
11. Folktales containing Anansi or Brer Rabbit are of the \_\_\_\_\_ genre.
14. Compiled famous fables.
15. Stories about supposed events in a culture's history.
16. Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, was called this in Roman mythology.
17. These brothers collected and compiled a book of German fairytales called "Household Tales".

**Down**

2. In this Swedish tale, what had to be removed from the wife's nose?
3. "The Legend of Paul Bunyan" and "Pecos Bill" are examples of these.
4. A folktale containing imaginary characters such as dragons, witches and monsters.
6. Folktales are meant to be told \_\_\_\_\_.
8. "The Wee Wee Mannie" is a folktale from this country.
10. This character is a trickster/hero in many African tales.
12. The word folktale originates from this word meaning "speech".
13. Is this unit on folktales fun?



