

Folk Tales: 3rd-5th Grade

A RIF Guide for Educators

Themes: Folk Tales, Fairy Tales, Tall Tales

Book Brief: This guide is designed for use with folk tales at the 3rd to 5th Grade reading level. Adapt the questions and activities in this guide to the book you are reading.

Content Connections: ELA, Social Studies

Time To Read!

Before we read, let's look at...

The Cover: Based on the cover, what folk tale is this? What culture does this version of the folk tale come from?

Prior Knowledge: Explain that a folk tale is a story passed down from generation to generation, often by word of mouth. Sometimes, authors collect folk tales and write them down. Each author or storyteller tells the story in a slightly different way, so there may be many versions of the same folk tale. Ask students if they are familiar with other versions of the same folk tale.

Vocabulary: Identify 8-10 words that are likely to be new to your students and introduce them before you read this book with your class.

Purpose for Reading: Most folk tales include a central message, lesson, or moral, and it's important to be able to identify it. As we read, think about what the central message, lesson, or moral might be.

While We Read

Monitoring Comprehension

- Retell this story, including important details.
- Describe the characters, settings, and events in this story, using details from both the words and the illustrations.
- What is the narrator's point of view? Does this story use first or third-person narration? How does the narrator's point of view influence how events are described?
- What is the mood of this story? How do the words and illustrations contribute to the mood created by the story?

Let's Think About

Our Purpose: What is the central message, lesson, or moral of this folk tale? What details in the book let you know?

Extending Our Thinking: Emphasize that most folk tales have many variations. As a class, reimagine this story as if it were set in your school. Brainstorm settings, events, and characters, replacing specific details from the story with details relevant to your school. Discuss how folk tales vary over time and place based on the circumstances of the storytellers.