

Story Clue Detectives

Use story details to identify traditional tale types.

3.9.A “demonstrate knowledge of distinguishing characteristics of well-known children's literature such as folktales, fables, fairy tales, legends, and myths;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details in each paragraph that help you identify its kind of traditional story. In the margin, write folktale, fable, or legend beside each paragraph.

Three Stories at the Picnic

- ① At the harvest picnic, Ms. Lee shared a story her grandfather had learned from his grandmother. In it, a clever young farmer notices that neighbors waste water from a spring. He teaches them to take only what they need, and the village begins a yearly water-sharing rule. The storyteller said families had told versions of this story for many years.
- ② Later, Ms. Lee read a very short tale about a boastful jay and a quiet ant. The jay sang instead of gathering food before winter. When snow came, the ant shared a few seeds but told the jay to plan ahead next time. At the bottom of the page, the book stated, "Prepare before you need help." That line gave readers the tale's lesson.
- ③ Last, a park guide told visitors about Rosa, a rider who once carried medicine through a mountain storm to a small town. The guide said Rosa was a real person, but people now say she crossed three rivers in one giant leap. A statue stands near the trail, and the town holds a Rosa Day each spring.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What kind of traditional story is the first paragraph? Give two details that support your answer.

2 What kind of traditional story is the jay and ant tale? Which details show this?

3 What kind of traditional story is Rosa's tale? Give two clues from the paragraph.

4 How is Rosa's giant leap different from the jay and ant acting like people?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence fairy tale. Include a royal character, something magical, and a happy ending.
Label your story "Fairy Tale."

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details in each paragraph that help you identify its kind of traditional story. In the margin, write folktale, fable, or legend beside each paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What kind of traditional story is the first paragraph? Give two details that support your answer.	It is a folktale. Families told versions of it for many years, and it teaches a community value about sharing water.
2	What kind of traditional story is the jay and ant tale? Which details show this?	It is a fable. Animals act and speak like people, and the tale ends with a clear lesson.
3	What kind of traditional story is Rosa's tale? Give two clues from the paragraph.	It is a legend. Rosa may have been a real person, but the giant leap is an exaggerated event connected to a local place.
4	How is Rosa's giant leap different from the jay and ant acting like people?	Rosa's giant leap is an exaggerated deed about a human in a legend. The jay and ant are animals acting like people in a fable.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Fairy Tale: A young prince found a silver key that made the castle doors sing open. With the key, he freed his sister from an enchanted tower. The family celebrated, and the kingdom was peaceful again.

Accept genre answers supported by passage details, even if students use different wording. For the open task, accept a three-sentence story labeled as a fairy tale that includes a royal character, magic, and a happy ending.