

Story Clue Detectives

Use story clues to tell traditional genres apart.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one clue in each card description that helps identify its story kind. Circle the words that name the story kind so you can connect each clue to a genre.

Maya's Story Box

- ① At the library's Story Box exhibit, Maya opened a card about a clever rabbit who tricked a hungry tiger. The story had been told aloud by families for many years, and no one knew who first made it. It used common people and animals and taught no clear lesson. Maya placed this card in the folktale drawer.
- ② Another card showed a fox and crow arguing over a shiny berry. At the end, the narrator stated, "Do not brag about what you have." Maya knew that a short animal story with a stated lesson is a fable. A third card described a local hero who saved a village during a flood. People believed the hero may have lived, although details changed as the story traveled. Maya called it a legend.
- ③ The last two cards were very different. One explained why thunder crashes by telling how a sky god rolls huge stones across the clouds. This myth used gods and nature to explain the world. The other told of a giant lumberjack who dug a canyon with one shovel stroke. Its impossible size and action made it a tall tale. Maya noticed that each kind of story has special clues.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which details help show that the rabbit and tiger story is a folktale?

2 What feature makes the fox and crow story a fable instead of a folktale?

3 Why is the story about the village hero a legend?

4 What clue identifies the thunder story as a myth, and what clue identifies the lumberjack story as a tall tale?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about a new traditional story. In sentence 1, name its genre. In sentence 2, describe the story and include at least two clues that fit that genre.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one clue in each card description that helps identify its story kind. Circle the words that name the story kind so you can connect each clue to a genre. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which details help show that the rabbit and tiger story is a folktale?	It was told aloud by families for many years, no one knew who first made it, and it used common people and animals.
2	What feature makes the fox and crow story a fable instead of a folktale?	It has a stated lesson: "Do not brag about what you have."
3	Why is the story about the village hero a legend?	People believed the hero may have lived, but the details changed as the story traveled.
4	What clue identifies the thunder story as a myth, and what clue identifies the lumberjack story as a tall tale?	The myth uses a god to explain thunder. The tall tale has impossible size and action, since one shovel stroke digs a canyon.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My story is a myth. The sun god Luma lights a golden torch each morning, explaining why daylight begins, and she rides it across the sky.

Accept equivalent wording for the genre clues in the passage. For Part 3, accept any named genre paired with at least two accurate characteristics of that genre.