

Tale Type Detectives

Sort fables and tall tales by their clues.

5.9 "Multiple genres: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--genres. The student recognizes and analyzes genre-specific characteristics, structures..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

FABLE

A fable is a short story that often has animals acting like people. It teaches a lesson or moral.

A lion and a sparrow learn that even a small friend can help.

TALL TALE

A tall tale is a story with huge, impossible exaggerations. The events are far beyond what could really happen.

Gus kicked a pebble so far that it landed on the moon.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Read each description and circle FABLE or TALL TALE.

1. A talking owl and mouse learn that honesty earns trust.

FABLE

TALL TALE

2. Jamal was so strong that he lifted a barn with one hand to save a calf.

FABLE

TALL TALE

3. Nora's sneeze blew every leaf off a mountain in one puff.

FABLE

TALL TALE

4. A rabbit tricks a boastful fox, then learns that bragging causes trouble.

FABLE

TALL TALE

5. Two squirrels refuse to work together and lose their winter food.

FABLE

TALL TALE

6. A crow returns a lost bead and discovers that kindness comes back.

FABLE

TALL TALE

7. Eli rowed his canoe so fast that he made a river flow uphill.

FABLE

TALL TALE

8. A bee laughs at a snail, then needs the snail's help and learns not to mock others.

FABLE

TALL TALE

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new FABLE example and one new TALL TALE example.

FABLE _____

TALL TALE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one FABLE and one TALL TALE. In two sentences, name a clue from each and explain how the clues differ.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A talking owl and mouse learn that honesty earns trust.	FABLE	Animals act like people, and the story teaches a lesson about honesty.
2	Jamal was so strong that he lifted a barn with one hand to save a calf.	TALL TALE	Jamal's strength is an impossible exaggeration.
3	Nora's sneeze blew every leaf off a mountain in one puff.	TALL TALE	The sneeze is exaggerated beyond what could happen.
4	A rabbit tricks a boastful fox, then learns that bragging causes trouble.	FABLE	Animals act like people, and the story teaches a lesson about bragging.
5	Two squirrels refuse to work together and lose their winter food.	FABLE	The animal characters show a lesson about cooperation.
6	A crow returns a lost bead and discovers that kindness comes back.	FABLE	An animal character learns a lesson about kindness.
7	Eli rowed his canoe so fast that he made a river flow uphill.	TALL TALE	Making a river flow uphill is an impossible exaggeration.
8	A bee laughs at a snail, then needs the snail's help and learns not to mock others.	FABLE	Animals act like people, and the story teaches a lesson about mocking others.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FABLE:** A raccoon shares its berries with a hungry deer and learns that generosity brings friends.
- **TALL TALE:** Tanya jumped over a canyon so wide that her shadow reached the next town.

Challenge: Item 1 is a FABLE because the talking animals learn a lesson about honesty. Item 2 is a TALL TALE because Jamal's impossible strength is an exaggeration, not a lesson taught by animal characters.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept explanations that identify animal characters and a lesson for a fable, or an impossible exaggeration for a tall tale. Student-created examples may vary if they clearly include the needed characteristics.