

# O What Tales We Weave!

**Stories reveal a lot about cultures, beliefs, and who we are in general. There are many types of stories. Do you recognize any of the examples to the right?**

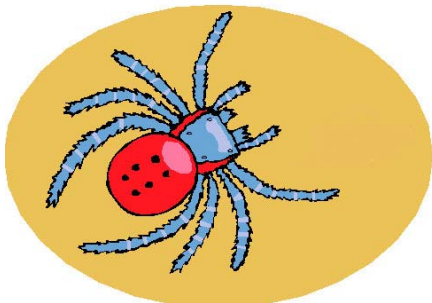
**TALL TALES:** fictional stories, presented as true. These tales are highly imaginative, unusual, and hard to believe. An example would be *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

**WHY STORIES:** stories that explain why things happened or exist. An example would be Creation Stories—stories that explain how the earth, man, and animals came to be.

**MYTHS:** sacred stories that sometime explain the origins of a culture. Examples may include African, Native American, or Greek myths.

**TRICKSTER TALES:** a tale in which the main character, such as Brer Rabbit, constantly tries to outsmart or outwit other characters. Some trickster tales are also animal tales.

**ORAL HISTORY NARRATIVES:** the stories of ordinary people, who tell of their life experiences. Think of someone in your family or community, who tells great stories.



**If you are interested in learning more about stories, visit: <http://www.louisianavoices.org> Unit V Oral Traditions: Swapping Stories.**

# Fun Oral Narrative Activities

**Discuss Tall Tales by exploring the following topics:**

- \* **Who tells them?**
- \* **Why do students think people tell them?**
- \* **Whether the students know any themselves.**
- \* **What examples have they heard or read elsewhere?**

**Ask whether students know any Tall Tales. They may share their stories in small groups, or as a class. They might also collect them in a fieldwork project.**

## **TEST YOUR STUDENTS' CREATIVITY!**

**Have students write their own Creation Stories about the origin of earth, man, animals, weather, etc. inspired by their research on Creation Stories. This may be done as a group activity or individually. Then have everyone share their stories.**



**If you are interested in exploring more lesson activities about stories and other oral traditions, please visit: <http://www.louisianavoices.org> Unit V Oral Traditions: Swapping Stories.**

