Motifs and Variations Worksheet

Name:___________________________________________Date:_________________

1. Do you know other versions of "Bouki, Rabbit, and Possum"
   <www.louisianavoices.org/Unit5/edu_ss49_bouki_lapin_possu.html>? Did you
   hear them, read them, or see them in movies? Have you ever heard this version
   before?

edu_ss33_little_tar_man.html> by Wilson "Ben Guiné" Mitchell; "Bouki, Lapin, and
   by Enola Mathews; "Bouki and Lapin in the Garden,"
   <http://www.louisianavoices.org/Unit5/edu_ss190_bouki_lapin_grdn.html>
   by Max Greig; and "Brer Rabbit and Tarbaby," <http://www.louisianavoices.org/
   Unit5/edu_ss200_rabbit_tarbaby.html> by Dolores Henderson, as well as any
   versions told in class or read in the library. If stories share the same basic plot, they
   are members of the same tale type.

3. List things in this story that differ from other versions. Such differences in plot,
   character, or major detail make each unique story a variant.
4. Now list things in this story that are the same as in other versions. These are the common motifs of the story. Motifs change from tale to tale. For example, "The Little Tar Man," [http://www.louisianavoices.org/Unit5/edu_ss33_little_tar_man.html] by Wilson "Ben Guiné" Mitchell has no briar patch motif, nor does Lapin escape.