



Unit V Oral Traditions: Swapping Stories
Lesson 1 Introduction

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?
2. Compare the stories "The Little Tar Man," http://www.louisianavoices.org/Unit5/edu_ss33_little_tar_man.html by Wilson "Ben Guiné" Mitchell; "Bouki, Lapin, and Possum," http://www.louisianavoices.org/Unit5/edu_ss49_bouki_lapin_possu.html 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.