



Unit V Oral Traditions: Swapping Stories  
Lessons 1 & 4

## Oral Narratives Checklist

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

There are many kinds of oral narratives. After reading or hearing a story, use the checklists below to help you decide which type it is.

<p><b>Tall Tales</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Presented as true accounts</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Usually told in first person</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> More and more unusual features are added to the story</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Celebrate the magical aspects of nature</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Popular among all-male groups</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Used to test and initiate newcomers</li></ul> <p>Some <b>tall tales</b> are:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>Urban Legends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary themes, situations</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> May or may not be true</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Told by males and females of all ages</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Express anxieties about rapidly changing society</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Have plausible beginnings, but grow more and more fantastic</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Often found on the Internet</li></ul> <p>Some <b>urban legends</b> are:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>Legends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Local heroes and characters who have made their mark on Louisiana</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Tell about specific local characters, e.g., the Longs, Jean Lafitte</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes in verse or song</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Actual events with fictitious characters</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> History and supernatural meets, as in "buried treasure" legends</li></ul> <p>Some <b>legends</b> are:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>Trickster Tales</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Usually feature a sly animal or human character</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Trickster serves as a hero for the powerless</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Hero is sometimes amoral or immoral</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Hero does not always win</li></ul> <p>Some <b>trickster tales</b> are:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>



## Oral Narratives Checklist – Page 2

<p><b>Myths</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Told to explain the beginnings of things</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Often associated with sacred beliefs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Take place in pre-historic time</p> <p>Some <b>myths</b> are:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>Märchen / magic tales / fairy tales / animal tales</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Characters are not believed to be real</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Told to entertain</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Set in a world of fantasy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> High adventures and magical acts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> May open with “Once upon a time...”</p> <p>Some <b>Märchen / magic tales / fairy tales / animal tales</b> are:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>Fables</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Often involve cleverness</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Often feature animals</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Teaches a lesson</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has a stated moral</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dumbness or ignorance in contrast to stupidity</p> <p>Some <b>fables</b> are:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>Personal Experience Narratives</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Told in the first person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Description of an event that happened to the storyteller</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reflects the storyteller’s attitudes, values, and beliefs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> May open with phrases such as “One time...” or “I remember...”</p> <p>Some <b>personal experience narratives</b> are:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>Jokes</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tightly structured narrative</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recognizable beginning, “Did you ever hear about...” and “There is this man..”</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Told to entertain</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on humor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has a punchline</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	