

# Folk Literature

## Legends

Davy Crocket  
Johnny Appleseed

## Fairy Tales

Cinderella

## Pourquoi tales

Why or How....

## Fables (moral)

Aesop

## Trickster tales

Coyote/Anansi/Raven

1. usually does not have a single identifiable author
2. oral tellings - from parent to child - therefore may have many versions (ie. Cinderella, Goldilocks)
3. "stock" characters: all good/really good or all bad/really bad
4. fantastic or unrealistic elements
5. usually has a lesson or moral
6. set in vague historical past: "once upon a time....long ago"

## Fairy Tales:

Set in vague time

Characters are make believe people

Strange tasks, challenges to meet

Helped by magical, mysterious beings

## Legends:

Set in recognizable place and time

Characters are human heroine or hero

Performs superhuman deeds

Based on real, historical figure whose abilities have been exaggerated over time

## Fables

Very short tales that usually end with a moral that suggests wise way of behaving

Most about animals, that act like humans - Tortoise and the Hare

## Pourquoi stories

Tell why or how something in nature came to be that way

Characters are usually animals - why rabbit has a short tail - how chipmunk got his stripes

## Trickster tales

Character usually animal - fox, crow, coyote, Anansi- delight in deceiving other animals

Trickster usually wins, not only because of own cleverness, but failing in victim (vanity, pride)

What is your favorite - what one do you remember best - any about animals