

Grade 3 Playlist: Recount Stories

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2:

- Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures.

Welcome

Not all stories are written down. Some stories are told aloud and passed along by word of mouth. Many of these stories have been handed down from parents to children. The stories might tell about people and places around the world. Today people still retell stories from countries around the world.

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- recount fables, folktales, and myths.
- describe how stories are linked to the cultures they come from.

Review

Key Terms

- A **fable** is a short story that teaches a lesson, or moral. It may have magical elements or animals with human traits.
- A **folktale** is a story usually passed by word of mouth. Folktales come from a certain culture or country.
- A **myth** is a traditional story that describes the early history of a culture. Myths often use magic to explain laws of nature that people once did not understand.
- **Culture** describes the customs and traditions of a nation or group of people.
- A **moral** is a lesson to show right from wrong.

Exploring the Standard

When listening to and retelling myths, fables, and folktales, readers should try to understand why each story was important to the culture it came from.

A Closer Look: Stories, Culture, and History

Many myths, fables, and folktales were made up long ago. They were made before people knew much about science. That is why many myths and folktales try to explain things in nature by using magic or animals. For example, a folktale might explain why we have day and night or why the seasons change. It might explain why a leopard has spots or a skunk has a stripe.



Some folktales give hints about what is important in a culture. They might tell the reader or listener about the importance of respecting nature or being kind to others. Some animal characters might display traits that humans have.

Example 1

This folktale from South Africa, explains why the jackal has a stripe down its body. The story states that it got the stripe because it tried to carry the Sun on its back. The story uses natural features such as the sun's heat to explain other parts of nature, such as the appearance of animals.

Why Has Jackal a Long Stripe On His Back?

¹The Sun, it is said, was one day on earth, and the men who were travelling saw him sitting by the wayside, but passed him without notice. Jackal, however, who came after them, and saw him also sitting, went to him and said, "Such a fine little child is left behind by the men." He then took Sun up, and put it into his awa-skin (on his back). When it burnt him, he said, "Get down," and shook himself; but Sun stuck fast to his back, and burnt Jackal's back black from that day.

The reader can understand from the characters and events that the story did not really happen. However, the story helps readers understand the culture. Readers can guess that people in this culture lived in an area where jackals were common. Readers also can guess that people in this culture saw the Sun and the jackal as having human qualities.

Watch!

This video tells a Japanese folktale called *The Stonecutter*. What do the characters and setting of this story show about ancient Japanese culture?

- <http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/vtl07.la.rv.genre.stonecutt/the-stonecutter/>

A Closer Look: Recounting Stories

Recounting a fable, myth, or folktale means telling the story to others. In a way, this means passing it along, much like storytellers do. One of the most famous storytellers is a Greek man named Aesop. He told so many stories that people are not even sure if he was a real person. The stories were retold and passed on for centuries. They have become a collection of famous tales for children called Aesop's fables.



Teaching Notes: Recount Stories

The goal of RL.3.2 is for students to read and retell a variety of folktales, fables, and myths, and to understand that they come from different cultures around the world. The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classroom so that students can gain experience retelling stories.

Activities

1. Ask pairs or small groups to create skits that retell the fable “Why Tiger and Stag Fear Each Other.” Then have students present their skits to the class. Discuss as a class how the skits differed from each other. Remind students that different storytellers recount fables in different ways.
2. To give students practice recounting fables, myths, and folktales from different cultures, invite students to a storytelling session in which volunteers retell some of the tales they heard or read during the playlist. Remind them that recounting a tale can mean summarizing it, or retelling it as if they are a storyteller. Encourage students to take turns until you have recounted all or most of the stories in the playlist.

Differentiation Ideas

1. If students have trouble focusing on the audio recordings or if they miss details of the stories, provide a written text of the stories by looking them up on <http://www.gutenberg.org>. This site has the text for thousands of stories in the public domain, including Aesop’s Fables: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/11339/11339-h/11339-h.htm>.
2. For students who have a firm grasp on the concepts expressed in folktales, introduce the concept of “fractured fairy tales,” in which a writer takes a familiar tale and changes the characters, setting, plot, or point of view. Invite them to use this website to write their own fractured fairy tales. <https://www.opened.com/exercise/fractured-fairy-tales-readwritethink/403573>

Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching RL.3.2:

- In this lesson, students explore the connection between Native American myths and the features of Yellowstone National Park. <http://www.pbs.org/edens/yellowstone/teach2.html>
- In this lesson, students work in groups to read folktales and retell them using visual aids. <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/exploring-world-cultures-through-91.html>

