

Teaching Notes

The goal of RL.4.9 is for students to compare and contrast the treatment of similar patterns of events in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures. The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classroom to teach this standard.

Activities

1. While a Venn diagram is discussed in the lesson itself, there are several other types of graphic organizers that can help students identify a pattern of events in a story. Have students choose one of these graphic organizers and use it to analyze a pair of stories from lesson.
 - a. Circle Plots: <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/circle-plot/>
 - b. Plot Diagrams: <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/plot-diagram/>
 - c. Flow Charts: (p. 18) <http://www.fcrr.org/curriculum/PDF/G4-5/45CPartOne.pdf>
2. Another common pattern of events in traditional stories occurs when humans are transformed into animals and then become human again. Stories that follow this pattern include “Beauty and the Beast,” “The Bear Prince” (a Swiss tale), and “The White Duck” (a Russian folktale). Have students read two of these tales and compare their pattern of events.

Writing Prompt

Read a common fairy tale, fable, or folktale. Discuss the story’s pattern of events as a class. Then, have students write their own version of the story. Explain that they can change characters, dialogue, and even setting, but the pattern of events needs to remain the same.

Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching RL.4.9:

- **Trickster Tales from Around the World:** Like quest stories, trickster tales often have similar patterns of events. In this lesson plan, students compare trickster tales from different cultures: <http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/fables-and-trickster-tales-around-world#sect-activities>
- **Hero’s Journey Video:** This video discusses the pattern of events in a quest story. It also gives examples of stories that follow this formula: <http://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-makes-a-hero-matthew-winkler>
- **Folktale Reference List:** This site organizes folktales and myths according to their plots, making it easy to find stories from different cultures that have similar patterns of events: <http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/folktexts.html>