BRIDGES EDITION

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

TALL TALES

Johnny Appleseed Gets His Name

&

Glooscap Makes the Seasons





retold by Cynthia Swain

Benchmark EDUCATION

Genre: Tall Tales
Level: K/20*

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

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LITERARY ANALYSIS
- Respond to and interpret text
- Make text-to-text connections
- Analyze the genre

READING SKILLS
Comprehension
- Analyze character

Word Study
- Direct definitions

Tier Two Vocabulary
(see Glossary)

WRITING SKILLS
Writer's Tools
- Metaphor

Writer's Craft
- How to write a tall tale

THEME CONNECTIONS
- Settling America
- Native Americans

*The reading level assigned to this text is based on the genre examples only. "Focus on the Genre," "Reread," and "Writer's Craft" features were not leveled. These sections are intended for read-aloud or shared reading.

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The Readers' & Writers' Genre Workshop series includes eleven fiction and nonfiction genres. There are two titles with multiple stories for each genre.

How to use this book

1. Learn about the genre by reading pages 2–3. Get background information about the stories on pages 4–5.
2. Read the tall tales for enjoyment.
3. Reread the stories and answer the questions on pages 13 and 21.
4. Reread the last story. Pay attention to the comments in the margins. See how an author writes a tall tale.
5. Follow the steps on pages 22–23 to write your own tall tale.
6. Complete the activity on the inside back cover. Answer the follow-up questions.

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Johnny Appleseed Gets His Name

Glooscap Makes the Seasons

Two American Tall Tales

retold by Cynthia Swain
illustrated by Karen Leon and George Almond

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TALL TALES

What is a tall tale?

A tall tale is an imaginative and usually funny story in which some details and actions are greatly exaggerated, or overstated. Tall tales often feature a hero or heroine who is based on a real person, but he or she becomes larger than life in the stories. The hero is often bigger, stronger, more skillful, and more courageous than an ordinary person.

What is the purpose of a tall tale?

A tall tale entertains people and teaches about good character traits. The hero shows strength, wit, determination, and courage over great odds. A tall tale often shows how human strength, cleverness, and know-how can overcome nature, machines, or just plain evil. The hero or heroine solves problems and beats out bullies in fun ways.

How do you read a tall tale?

The title usually names the hero or heroine. The beginning of the story often tells about the hero's special abilities. Then the author will introduce the problem of the story or the "bully." Ask yourself, "How will the main character use his or her powers to defeat this bad guy?" Then get ready to be amused and surprised.

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A tall tale is usually a funny story with exaggerations.

The main character is a hero or heroine and often is based on a real person.

The hero may have a helper that might be an animal or object.

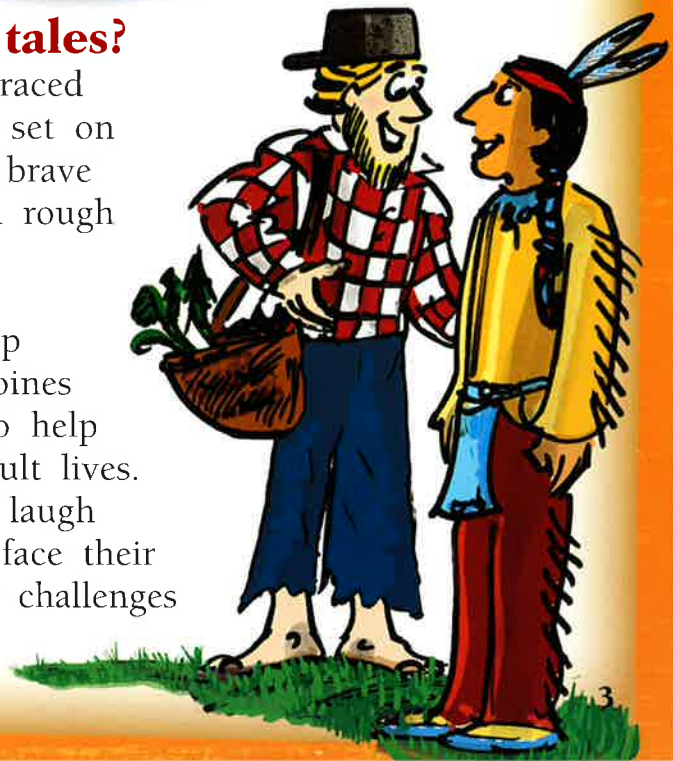
Features of a Tall Tale

The hero has superhuman strength and skills.

The hero has to fight or outwit a "bully" in the form of nature, an animal, a machine, or a group of people.

Who invented tall tales?

Many tall tales can be traced back to the 1800s and are set on the American frontier. The brave settlers of these areas faced rough land, raging rivers, terrible storms, wild animals, and "bad guys." People made up tales about heroes and heroines with superhuman powers to help them cope with their difficult lives. The tall tales made people laugh and gave them courage to face their problems and overcome the challenges that lay before them.



The Origins of Two Tall Tales

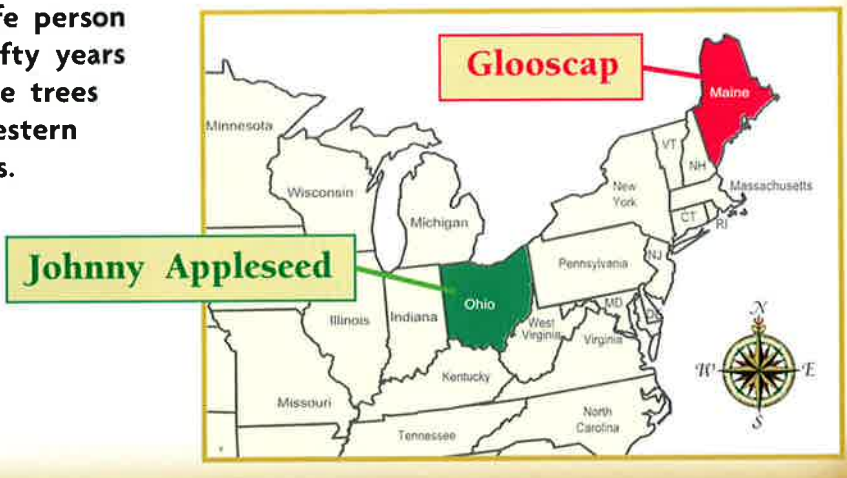
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Johnny Appleseed was a real-life person who spent fifty years growing apple trees in the midwestern United States.

Johnny Appleseed, a Tall Tale from Ohio: Johnny Appleseed's real name was John Chapman. He was born on September 26, 1774, in Leominster, Massachusetts. When he grew up, he owned tree farms in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana. Some of his apple trees still produce apples today.

Johnny was a kind man. Since he was friends with both the pioneers and the Native Americans, he often helped settle problems between the two groups. Johnny's wish was that no one would ever go hungry. He died in 1845 at the age of seventy. People celebrate his life with a yearly Appleseed Festival in the city where he is buried—Fort Wayne, Indiana.



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Glooscap, a Tall Tale from Maine: Glooscap was the mythical hero of the Wabanaki (wah-buh-NAH-kee) Indians and other tribes who lived on the eastern seaboard of what are now the United States and Canada. It is said that Glooscap created the animals, the first people, and many natural features such as mountains, rivers, and islands.

In different legends, Glooscap's name is spelled different ways, such as *Gluskabe* and *Kloskomba*.



Many Native Americans believed that Glooscap was their creator and protector.

Tools Writers Use
Metaphor

A **metaphor** (MEH-tuh-for) compares two things that are alike in one way. Metaphors directly describe something by using the word **is** or **was** rather than **like** or **as**. For example: "The baby's happiness was a hug from mommy." Authors use metaphors to help readers create pictures in their minds. Notice how the author of these tales uses this type of comparison to describe what something feels, looks, tastes, smells, sounds, or acts like. Authors also use metaphors to show how characters or objects resemble or represent something else.

Johnny Appleseed Gets His Name



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