BRIDGES EDITION

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

Trickster Tales



The Fox and the Raccoon

The Hodja and the Soup



Loki Saves the Boy



retold by Cynthia Swain and Brooke Harris

Benchmark EDUCATION

GENRE: Trickster Tales
Level: K/20*

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

For teachers' inspection ONLY

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

READING SKILLS
Comprehension
- Analyze story elements

Word Study
- Synonyms

Tier Two Vocabulary
(see Glossary)

WRITING SKILLS
Writer's Tools
- Simile

Writer's Craft
- How to write a trickster tale

THEME CONNECTIONS
- **World Cultures**
- **Trust**

*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 trickster tales for enjoyment.
3. Reread the stories and answer the questions on pages 11, 15, and 21.
4. Reread the last story. Pay attention to the comments in the margins. See how an author writes a trickster tale.
5. Follow the steps on pages 22–23 to write your own trickster tale.
6. Complete the activity on the inside back cover. Answer the follow-up questions.

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The Fox and the Raccoon



The Hodja and the Soup



Loki Saves the Boy

Three Trickster Tales from Around the World

retold by Cynthia Swain and Brooke Harris

illustrated by George Banagis,
Dewayne Whiteside, and Steve Harpster

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TRICKSTER TALES

What is a trickster tale?

A trickster tale is a short story in which animals or other creatures talk, think, and act like people. One character, the trickster, uses clever pranks or traps to fool another character. Often the trickster is much smaller than the character he fools. Sometimes the trickster wants to help others, but other times the trickster only wants to help himself.

What is the purpose of a trickster tale?

A trickster tale shows human characteristics and problems in an entertaining way. A trickster tale often teaches a lesson. The tale shows what happens when people make bad choices—although some of the bad choices come from the tricksters themselves!

How do you read a trickster tale?

Pay attention to the title. The title will often tell you which character is the trickster. Each character stands for ways that humans behave. As you read, ask yourself, "What human quality, or trait, does each character represent?" Notice what happens to the main characters. Think about how the events in the story support the lesson that the tale tries to teach.

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Features of a Trickster Tale

- The main characters are usually animals.
- The trickster may have a flaw.
- The trickster has a problem or helps someone with a problem.
- The trickster outwits another character to solve the problem.
- The story is short and usually funny.



Who invented trickster tales?

Trickster tales originated all over the world, but African and Native American tales are among the most common today. The tales were originally passed down through oral storytelling. In modern times, many have been made into books and films. Some of today's popular cartoon characters are tricksters!

MEET SOME WORLD-FAMOUS TRICKSTERS

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Trickster: Fox
Place: Japan
Background: Since people in ancient Japan lived among foxes, storytellers used this animal as a character in their tales. Soon, the fox became known as a trickster who could change into any number of other creatures, including humans. Like tricksters in other cultures, Fox could be either helpful or harmful.





Trickster: Hodja
Place: Turkey
Background: *Hodja* (HOH-juh) means "teacher" in Turkish. Hundreds of stories have been told about this wise and funny teacher who lived in Turkey in the thirteenth century. In many Hodja stories, people ask for his advice. In other stories, they test his wit or play jokes on him.

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Trickster: Loki
Place: Scandinavia
Background: Loki (LOH-kee) is the child of giants. He has the ability to change into any animal. Loki started out as a harmless prankster who liked getting into everyone's business, but he grew into a liar, thief, and troublemaker over the years. However, as the tale in this book shows, Loki also used his powers to help people get out of trouble.



Tools Writers Use

Simile

Look at the word **simile** (SIH-muh-lee). Does it remind you of the word **similar**? Things that are similar are alike in some way. Most similes compare two things using the words **like** or **as**. Writers use similes to describe how the characters look and act. They also use similes to compare parts of the setting to familiar objects and animals. Similes help readers create pictures in their minds to better understand what they read.

The Fox and the Raccoon

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Fox and Raccoon were friends. They liked to play together. They liked to play tricks on each other, too. Both animals had a special power. They could **transform** themselves. Snap! They could change into anything.

Fox and Raccoon could become fish. Then they could swim in the ocean. They could turn into birds. They could fly as high as a star.