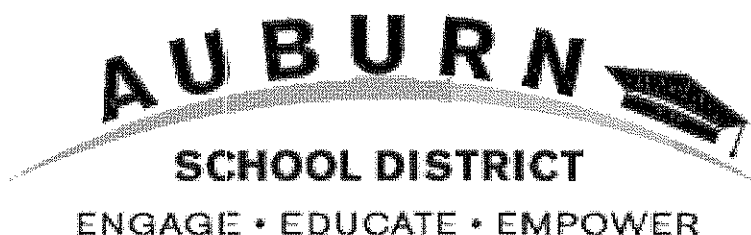


Grade 4 ELA - Performance Task Assessment

Folktales
Narrative



Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade 4 Performance Task

STUDENT DIRECTIONS:

Folktales Narrative Performance Task

Task:

Kid's Magazine" publishes student writing. The February issue is featuring folktales written by children in 4th grade. And you have been chosen to write a folktale for the magazine! Before you write your own folktale, you will do some research and read an article about folktales, and read two different folktales from other countries.

After you have looked at these sources you will answer some questions about them. Briefly scan the sources and the three questions that follow. Then, go back and read the sources carefully to gain the information you will need to answer the questions and write your own folktale.

In Part 2, you will write a folktale using information you have read.

Direction for beginning:

You will now look at three sources. You can look at any of the sources as often as you like.

Research Questions:

After looking at the sources, use the rest of the time in Part 1 to answer three questions about them. Your answer to these questions will be scored. Also, your answers will help you think about the information you have read which should help you write your folktale.

Note Guidelines for Source 1: What Makes a Folktale?

Traits of a folktale	Key Details (Most Important information in the section in 10 words or less)
Setting	<hr/> <hr/>
Characters	<hr/> <hr/>
Animals	<hr/> <hr/>
Tricksters	<hr/> <hr/>
Plot	<hr/> <hr/>
Mnemonic Devices	<hr/> <hr/>

Part 1

Sources for Performance Task

What Makes a Folktale?

A folk tale is a short story that comes from the oral tradition.

Setting: Folktales setting are simple. The place is described easily and briefly (humble cottage, magic kingdom, dark forest) that fits the typical geography of the country. Usually time is described as:

- Long-ago, Long,
- Once upon a time
- They lived happily ever after.

Characters: The characters in folktales are easy to understand. Folktale characters usually fall into one of two groups. Characters who are good. And characters who are wicked.

Animals: In folktales, animals often talk and act like human beings. The animal characters interact with people. Many animals act as “magic helpers” to the human hero or heroine of the tale.

Tricksters – Trickster characters are found in the folktales of many cultures. Unlike the majority of characters in folktales, they are a mix of good and evil. Sometimes they help people, while at other times they are mischievous. Human characters can also be tricksters.

Plot: The plot of a folktale is very simple but interesting. It is full of action and follows simple patterns. Most heroes and heroines are humble characters who succeed through their own hard work, cleverness, and are usually assisted by a magical helper. Conflicts are usually resolved with great deeds or acts of human kindness related to good and bad.

Mnemonic Devices: A mnemonic device is something that helps us remember. Mnemonic devices were very important, since storytellers had to remember the plot of their stories without writing them down. In folktales, different mnemonic devices are used:

1. *Openings and Closings* – “once upon a time” and “they lived happily ever after” are familiar mnemonic aids used by storytellers in English.
2. *Formula Three* – in folktales, events often occur in threes and there are often three characters. For example, there may be three brothers and each goes out into the world to have an adventure, so there are three adventures. Seven is another commonly used number in folktales.
3. *Repeated Descriptions* – Characters are described using a single adjective that reoccurs in many stories. For example; the wise old man, the clever fox, the youngest son. This helps the reader to remember the story.

Many folktales share the same characteristics. Folktales are fun to read and write. Try one!

Note Guidelines for Source #2: The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Traits of a folktale	Key Details
Setting Once upon a time...	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Characters	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Problem	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Main Events	1. <hr/> <hr/> 2. <hr/> <hr/> 3. <hr/> <hr/>
Closure	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Source #2: *"The Three Billy Goat Gruff" is a Norwegian folktale that has been passed down for generations.*

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

A folktale from Norway

Once upon a time there were three billy goats, who wanted to go up to the hillside to make themselves fat, and the name of all three was "Gruff." On the way up was a bridge over a cascading stream they had to cross; and under the bridge lived a grumpy ugly troll , with eyes as big as saucers, and a nose as long as a poker.

So first of all came the youngest Billy Goat Gruff to cross the bridge.

"Trip, trap, trip, trap! " went the bridge.

"Who's that tripping over my bridge?" roared the troll .

"Oh, it is only I, the tiniest Billy Goat Gruff , and I'm going up to the hillside to make myself fat," said the billy goat, with such a small voice.

"Now, I'm coming to gobble you up," said the troll.

"Oh, no! please don't take me. I'm too little, that I am," said the billy goat. "Wait a bit till the second Billy Goat Gruff comes. He's much bigger."

"Well, be off with you," said the troll.

A little while after came the second Billy Goat Gruff to cross the bridge. Trip, trap, trip, trap, trip, trap, went the bridge.

"Who's that tripping over my bridge?" roared the troll.

"Oh, it's the second Billy Goat Gruff , and I'm going up to the hillside to make myself fat," said the billy goat, who hadn't such a small voice.

"Now I'm coming to gobble you up," said the troll.

"Oh, no! Don't take me. Wait a little till the big Billy Goat Gruff comes. He's much bigger."

"Very well! Be off with you," said the troll.

But just then up came the big Billy Goat Gruff . Trip, trap, trip, trap, trip, trap! went the bridge, for the billy goat was so heavy that the bridge creaked and groaned under him.

"Who's that tramping over my bridge?" roared the troll.

"It's I! The big Billy Goat Gruff," said the billy goat, who had an ugly hoarse voice of his own.

"Now I 'm coming to gobble you up," roared the troll.

"Well, come along! I've got two spears,

And I'll poke your eyeballs out at your ears;

I've got besides two curling-stones,

And I'll crush you to bits, body and bones."

That was what the big billy goat said. And then he flew at the troll, and poked his eyes out with his horns, and crushed him to bits, body and bones, and tossed him out into the cascade, and after that he went up to the hillside. There the billy goats got so fat they were scarcely able to walk home again. And if the fat hasn't fallen off them, why, they're still fat; and so,

Snip, snap, snout.

This tale's told out.

Note Guidelines for Source #3: The Red and Blue Coat

Traits of a folktale	Key Details
Setting Once upon a time...	<hr/> <hr/>
Characters	<hr/> <hr/>
Problem	<hr/> <hr/>
Main Events	1. <hr/> <hr/> 2. <hr/> <hr/> 3. <hr/> <hr/>
Closure Lesson learned	<hr/> <hr/>

Source #3: *“The Blue and Red Coat” is an African folktale about wisdom. This Folktale is from Nigeria. It has an interesting and fun message for anyone!*

The Red and Blue Coat

Once there were two boys who were great friends, and they were determined to remain that way forever. When they grew up and got married, they built their houses facing each other. There was a small path that formed a border between their farms.

One day, a trickster from the village decided to play a trick on them. He dressed himself in a two-color coat that was divided down the middle. So, one side of the coat was red, and the other side was blue.

The trickster wore this coat and walked along the narrow path between the houses of the two friends. They were each working opposite each other in their fields. The trickster made enough noise as he passed them to make sure that each of them would look up and see him passing.

At the end of the day, one friend said to the other, “Wasn’t that a beautiful red coat that man was wearing today?”

“No”, the other replied. “It was a blue coat.”

“I saw the man clearly as he walked between us!” said the first, “His coat was red.”

“You are wrong!” said the other man, “I saw it too, and it was blue.”

“I know what I saw!” insisted the first man. “The coat was red!”

“You don’t know anything,” the second man replied angrily. “It was blue!”

They kept arguing about this over and over, insulted each other, and eventually, they began to beat each other and roll around on the ground.

Just then, the trickster returned and faced the two men, who were punching and kicking each other and shouting, “Our friendship is OVER!”

The trickster walked directly in front of them, and showed them his coat. He laughed at their silly fight. The two friends saw his coat was red on one side and blue on the other.

The two friends stopped fighting and screamed at the trickster saying, “We have lived side by side like brothers all our lives, and it is all your fault that we are fighting. You have started a war between us.”

“Don’t blame me for the battle,” replied the trickster. “I did not make you fight. Both of you are wrong, and both of you are right. Yes, what each one saw was true. You are fighting because you only looked at my coat from your own point of view.”

Now think about what you’re going to do?

Questions

Questions

1. Based on the information in the article what folktale traits did the authors use in “The Red and Blue Coat” and “The Three Billy Goats Gruff”? Support your answer with details from both folktales.

<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

2. How were the two folktales similar?

- A. They both had friends and family.
- B. They both included elements of magic.
- C. They both took place in small villages.
- D. They both contained elements of trickery.

3. Match the folktale traits on the right with the mnemonic devices on the left. Draw a line to connect your matches.

Setting

Characters

Plot

Openings and Closings

Formula Three

Repeated Description

Student Directions for Part 2

You will now look at your sources, take notes, and plan, draft, revise and edit your folktale. Now read your assignment and the information about how your folktale will be scored; then begin your work.

Your Assignment:

Kid's Magazine" publishes student writing. The February issue is featuring folktales written by children in 4th grade. And you have been chosen to write a folktale for the magazine!

Make sure to use folktale traits such as characters, plot, setting, and closure.

How your folktale will be scored:

1. *Narrative focus*- how well you maintain your focus and establish a setting, narrator and/or characters.
2. *Organization*- how well the events logically flow from beginning to end using effective transitions and how well you stay on topic throughout the essay.
3. *Elaboration of narrative*- how well you elaborate with details, dialogue, and description to advance the story or illustrate the experience.
4. *Language and vocabulary*-how well you effectively express experiences or events using sensory, concrete, and figurative language that is appropriate for you purpose.
5. *Conventions*-how well you follow the rules of usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

Now begin your work on your folktale

1. Plan your folktale
2. Write your folktale
3. Revise and edit the final draft

