

## **Folktale Mini-Research Project** **American Studies English III Honors**

**Objectives:** Students will work cooperatively to read several folktales from the assigned culture, study the folktales for patterns, research the culture and create a presentation and visual based on their findings.

**Due Date:** Tuesday, September 18, 2007

### **Directions:**

1. Read several stories from the assigned culture. Everyone in the group must read and understand every story.
2. Discuss stories. Look for patterns and answer these questions based on the readings.
  - a. Overall, what was the writing style of these folktales like? Why do you think the style is as it is?
  - b. What patterns do you notice in the topics of the stories?
  - c. Do you see any character types that are still associated with this culture? Types that appear in more than one story?
  - d. Do you notice a pattern in the issues the stories discuss?
  - e. Do any of the tales contain potentially hidden or secondary meanings (most cultures' tales do)? If so, what secondary meanings are there? Why would these stories be told in a way that hides these meanings?
  - f. Based on the CONTENT and TOPICS of the folktales, what can you determine about this culture's values (eg. Are the elderly revered? Is nature important and, if so, what kind of nature? Is secrecy important? Education? Hard work?)?
3. Do some research using RELIABLE SOURCES about the culture and time period during which these stories are told.
  - a. Are the stories still a part of this group's culture? If so how are they preserved?
  - b. Can the remnants of these stories be seen anywhere else in our culture?
  - c. How were these stories passed down originally? How were the new storytellers chosen and taught?
  - d. Do you see any stories that are similar to those still told in our culture?
  - e. If the author(s) are known for any of the folktales, find out about them.
  - f. Are any of the stories based on true events or people?
4. Prepare a visual aid of appropriate size (poster size or a handout for each person in class that your group will prepare and copy) detailing what your group read and discovered about this culture and its folktales. You MUST include the following:
  - a. A list of titles and (if given) authors of the tales your group read
  - b. A list of important characteristics of the folktales
  - c. Information uncovered in your outside research WITH PARENTHETICAL DOCUMENTATION USING MLA STYLE.
  - d. At least five images found in your research using MLA style parenthetical documentation
  - e. A list of your group's conclusions about this culture and its stories.
  - f. An MLA style list of Works Cited. If you wish to include non-cited works, you may instead create a Bibliography, but must label the page as such. The Works Cited/Bibliography MUST be typed, as must any handout you choose to create. Posters must be neat, but typing is not mandatory.

**Grading – 10 points each for a total of 100 points**

Preparation/Visual Aid/Presentation

- In-class time management/on-task time (graded individually)
- Quality of research
- Quality of insights
- Quality of images
- Accuracy of MLA-style parenthetical documentation
- Accuracy of MLA-style Works Cited or Bibliography
- Neatness of visual aid
- Creativity of visual aid
- Quality and organization of group presentation
- Understanding of folktales and underlying culture

*Please note that grades will be given to groups, but adjusted according to teacher and student feedback. This adjustment will be based on each individual's level of participation, insight, on-task behavior and group cooperation.*