

Trickster Tale

Trickster Tale Chart Activity

Grade Level 7-12

Common Core State Standards

Reading Standard

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Time of Activity If done alone, this lesson will take about forty-five minutes. If this lesson is combined with **Trickster Tale Writing Project**, it will take several days, both in and outside of class, to complete.

Learning Outcomes This activity reinforces students' abilities to read and comprehend short stories, and discuss ideas within a group. They'll learn to identify the characteristics of trickster tales.

Materials

Copies of two trickster tale short stories
Printed copies of the blank Trickster Tales chart
handout

Activities

Step 1 Ask students to read the two trickster tales. (Depending on the class and time available, this may be done in class as a group, independently and silently, or the teacher may ask the students to read the stories for homework.) Model through a think aloud how to complete the Trickster Tale Chart.

Step 2 Students should complete one row of the Trickster Tale Chart for each trickster tale.



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Step 3 Class should discuss this chart as a group.

Step 4 Ask students to brainstorm characteristics that both of these stories have in common. Students should take notes and identify "Characteristics of Trickster Tales".

As the characteristics are discussed, the teacher should guide students to expand and refine the list as necessary. As a reminder, the characteristics of trickster tales are:

Structure

- Characters are named.
- Characters traits are clearly identified early in the story.
- The type of animal has a symbolic importance.
- Dialogue exists between the trickster and a powerful character.
- Other animal characters may be involved.
- The story line is obvious; nothing is hidden from the reader/ listener.
- Action has a purpose: a trick is set up, played, and an outcome is stated at the end of the tale.
- The power structure is inverted in the trick: the trickster ends up having power over the stronger character.

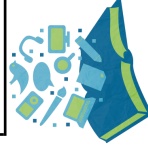
Characterization

- Animals can talk and have human emotions.
- The trickster may have special powers he/she uses in order to accomplish the trick.
- The powerful character may have a weakness or flaw that the trickster exploits.



Trickster Tale Chart

Name of Story	
Name of Trickster	
Characteristics of Trickster	
Name of Powerful Character	
Characteristics of Powerful Character	
Reason for Trick	
Summary of Trick	
Outcome	



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Trickster Tale Writing Activity

Grade Level 7-12

Common Core State Standards

Reading Standard

9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Writing Standard

3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

Time of Activity This lesson, **Trickster Tale 2 Writing Activity**, will take several days to complete. It should be done after **Trickster Tale 1 Chart Activity**. Time will vary depending on the nature of the class and students' ability level. In any case, students should be given class time to brainstorm and plan. Time should also allow for partners to meet with one another and to conference with the teacher.

Learning Outcomes This activity, combined with **Trickster Tale 2 Chart Activity** reinforces students' abilities to read and comprehend short stories, cooperate with a partner, and discuss ideas within a group. They'll learn to identify the characteristics of trickster tales and demonstrated this understanding through creative writing.

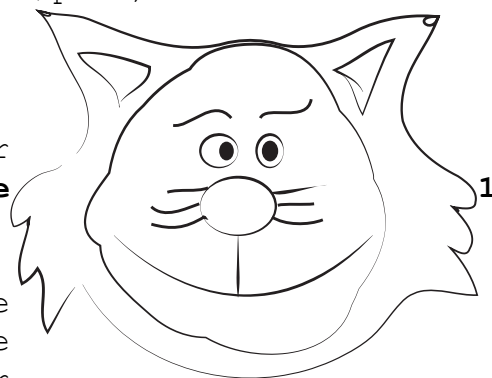
Materials

Printed out copy of the Planning Sheet handout for each pair of students
Writing materials (paper/notebooks and pencils/pens)
Word processor

Activities

Step 1 Review the characteristics of trickster tales, as discussed in the **Trickster Tale Chart Activity**.

Step 2 Assign each student a partner. Give each pair of students a blank copy of the Planning Sheet. Instruct them to work together



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to prepare to write their own trickster tale by completing the Planning Sheet. (Advise students to work together and compromise to reach decisions that both partners agree on.)

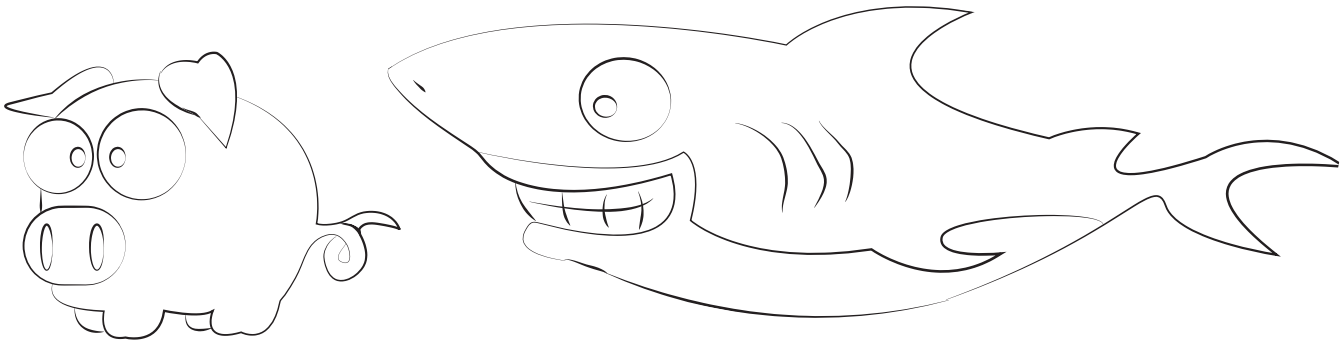
Step 3 Before the actual writing begins, go over the requirements:

Not only should the story reveal creativity and follow the characteristics of the genre but it should show that each person has put forth time and effort. Make sure that this is a sample of your best writing: Check spelling and punctuation, and be sure the ideas are clearly and logically stated. Proofread and revise as necessary.

- Final project must be typed.
- It must have a creative and original title.
- Complete heading must include the name of both partners
- It must adhere to the characteristics of the trickster tale genre.
- The final project must contain at least one illustration

Step 4 'Publish' the trickster tales for all of the students to enjoy. This may be accomplished by creating a bulletin board, asking students to read their trickster tales to the class, or by creating a book of all the stories. You can also use websites like livebinders.com.

Evaluation Project Grade Sheet (two pages) with explanation of criteria follows. Note that there are three levels of evaluation: Self Evaluation, Peer Evaluation and Teacher Grade Sheet.



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Planning a Trickster Tale Writing Activity

Names:

Period:

Date:

Powerful Character (Oppressive Force)

Choose a powerful character.

Character's Name:

What kind of animal is he/she? What is the symbolic importance of this animal?

Characteristics:

What are his/her physical attributes?

What is his/her flaw?

Trickster

Choose a powerful character. What kind of animal is he/she? What is symbolic importance of this animal?

Characteristics:

What are his/her physical attributes?

How is he/she powerful?

What qualities will the Trickster need to overcome the powerful character?



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Self-Evaluation

Name:

Period:

Date:

Directions

Rate yourself on a 1-5 scale (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

Cooperation

How cooperative were you with your partner? Were you willing to compromise your ideas with your partner's? Did you work without fighting or complaining?

1

2

3

4

5

Responsible

How responsible were you? Did you complete all of the tasks that you were assigned? Did you complete these tasks on time? Did you meet your partner when arranged? Did you do so on time?

1

2

3

4

5

Fair

Did you complete an equal number/amount of tasks as your partner? Were you willing to do your share of the work without conflict?

1

2

3

4

5

Any other comments?



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Peer Evaluation

Name:

Period:

Date:

Directions

Rate your partner on a 1-5 scale (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

1

2

3

4

5

Cooperation

How cooperative was your partner with you? Were they willing to compromise their ideas with yours? Did you work without fighting or complaining?

1

2

3

4

5

Responsible

How responsible was your partner? Did they complete all of the tasks they were assigned? Did they complete tasks on time? Did they meet you when arranged?

1

2

3

4

5

Fair

Did your partner complete an equal number/amount of tasks as you? Was your partner willing to do their share of the work without conflict?

Would you work with this person again? Why/Why not?

Any other comments?



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Writing a Trickster Tale Grade-sheet

Names:

Period:

Date:

General Requirements

Complete Heading

Creative and Original Title

Typed, Standard Font and Margins

Includes at least one illustration that connects to the story and reflects effort and creativity

1	2	3	4	5
Incomplete	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent

General Characteristics of Literature

Straightforward and Easy to Understand

Emphasizes Nature

Animals prevalent; they Talk and have Human Emotions

Reveals balance between Good and Evil

Oral tradition- Dialogue Exists Among Characters

Specific Genre of Writing

Trickster Tale: Characters are named and symbolic animals, oppressive character has powerful characteristics and flaw is well described early on, detailed characteristics well described early on, motive for trick explained, and trick reverses the power.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20										
Insufficient Writing					Lacks Development					Poor					Fair					Well Done					Excellent				
Insufficient Writing					Needs Detail					Add Description					Highly Detailed														

Quality of Writing (Organization, Mechanics and Style)

Well Organized, uses appropriate paragraph structure

Complete sentence structure-- no runs and fragments

appropriate punctuation of dialogue

demonstrates creativity and imaginative thinking

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Insufficient Writing			Many Errors/ Confusing			Several Errors			Few/No Errors		

Additional Comments:

Total: /35

