

I. Tall Tales – an American creation which is a fictitious tale based on a real life character or event. *They are filled with exaggerations, similes, metaphors, and descriptive language. They are told as if true, but the listeners know that the story could have never happened as told.*

A. Characteristics of Tall Tales:

1. The main character accomplishes great feats using strength, skill, and wits. Superhuman qualities identified.
2. The main character is helped by a powerful object or animal.
3. The author uses exaggeration and humor; the hero brags but also makes fun of himself/herself.
4. The story explains how some familiar things began, or solves a problem in a humorous way.
5. The hero has a colorful way of speaking.
6. Famous people and places show up in the story.
7. The hero does not like what others call process. More often than not, the hero dies or disappears.

B. History

1. Tall Tales are a part of our nation's history, especially during the time of the Westward movement.

C. Other Famous Examples

1. Paul Bunyan
2. Blackbeard's Ghost
3. Mississippi Jack