

TALL TALES

Q: How do you know if a story is a tall tale?

A: While you are reading, ask these 3 questions:

- Is this full of exaggerations?
- Does the main character overcome a very hard thing?
- Is the hero “larger than life”?

Q: Who are some famous tall tale heroes? What are they famous for?

A:

- Paul Bunyan and Babe his blue ox—famous logger who fixed a 200 foot high log jam
- Johnny Appleseed—traveled around barefoot planting apple seeds
- Calamity Jane—worked for Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show
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Q: Where

A: Tall tales were stories that were told from person to person in the American frontier and west. As they were told, the stories got more and more amazing. Some tall tales are based on the life of a real person (like the story of Johnny Appleseed).

Try This!

Draw an X through the pictures that do not show tall tale heroes.



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Decide whether each statement is true or false.

1. Tall tales began in India. T / F
2. Tall tales are only about women. T / F
3. Paul Bunyan had a big blue ox. T / F
4. Pecos Bill is a famous tall tale hero. T / F
5. All tall tale heroes were real people. T / F