

Folktales Exploration: Grades 3-5

READ ALOUD GUIDE

This guide is designed for use with folktales for grades 3-5. Adapt the questions and activities in this guide to the book you are reading.

Standards: RL.3.2, RL.4.2, RL.5.2



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to examine the cover and title. “What can you predict about the characters, setting, or events? What details support your prediction?”

The Pictures: Preview a few illustrations. Ask, “What clues do the illustrations give us about the setting, characters, or culture represented in the story?”

Prior Knowledge: Ask, “What do you know about folktales? What characteristics have you noticed in folktales you have read or heard?” Explain that folktales are stories that have been told and retold over generations and often reflect the traditions, values, and experiences of a culture or community.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using RIF’s [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about how the characters’ actions and experiences help develop a theme or message in the story.”



Think Aloud: “I notice that the character’s choices lead to certain consequences. I’m thinking about what the character learns from these experiences and how that might help me identify a larger lesson or theme.”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What challenge or problem does the character face?
- What motivates the character’s actions or choices?
- How do the character’s choices affect what happens next?
- What patterns, repeated events, or familiar folktale elements do you notice?
- What can you infer about the character from their words, thoughts, or actions?
- What lesson or message is beginning to emerge? What details support your thinking?
- What does the story reveal about the traditions, values, or experiences of its culture or community?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: “How did the characters’ actions and experiences help reveal the lesson or theme of this folktale? What details from the story support your thinking?”

Extending Our Thinking: Discuss how folktales are passed down and retold over time and may reflect the values, traditions, and experiences of different cultures and communities. Invite students to compare this folktale with another, considering similarities and differences in the characters, events, lessons, or themes.