

Unit 3 – Stories, Myths, Religion, and Ethics

Day 1

FOLKLORE:

THE MYTHS, FABLES, AND STORIES THAT DEFINE US

Objectives

- **Understand the importance of folklore in a society's culture, values, and norms**
- **Identify the difference between the types of “stories” in folklore**
- **Prepare to write and share our own “folktale”**
- **Terms:**
 - **Folklore**
 - **Folktale**
 - **Myth**
 - **Fable**
 - **Fairytale**
 - **Legend**

Remind Me...

- **What is a norm?**
- **What about a value?**
- **What are taboos?**
- **HOW do we learn those things?!**

What The Folk?

- One of the obvious ways that things that values and norms are passed down is thanks to...
- Folklore
 - Traditional art, stories, knowledge, and practices passed down
 - Shares the ideas and values of a group
 - Usually done orally, or by example

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WILLIAM GROPPER'S
AMERICA
ITS FOLKLORE



Story of My Life...

- **Storytelling is common to every culture on Earth (and has been in every time, group, etc.). Since the first humans were making cave-art, they were telling their stories, whether to share caution, to brag, to teach lessons, or just to practice their art ☺**
- **But the TYPES of stories, the purpose, and the WAYS we tell them change...**

Story of My Life...

- **Folktale**

- **Story passed down through generations**
- **Not written down**
- **No ONE author or origin**
- ***Ghost Stories, Goldilocks and the 3 Bears, Paul Bunyan***

Most Popular Folktales North America



Ermine and Johnny Appleseed
the Hunter



Johnny Appleseed

Maid of the Mist

Paul Bunyan and
Babe the Blue Ox

Pele's Revenge

Maid of the Mist



Princess Scargo
Columbia River



The Coyote of
Columbia River



The First Tears

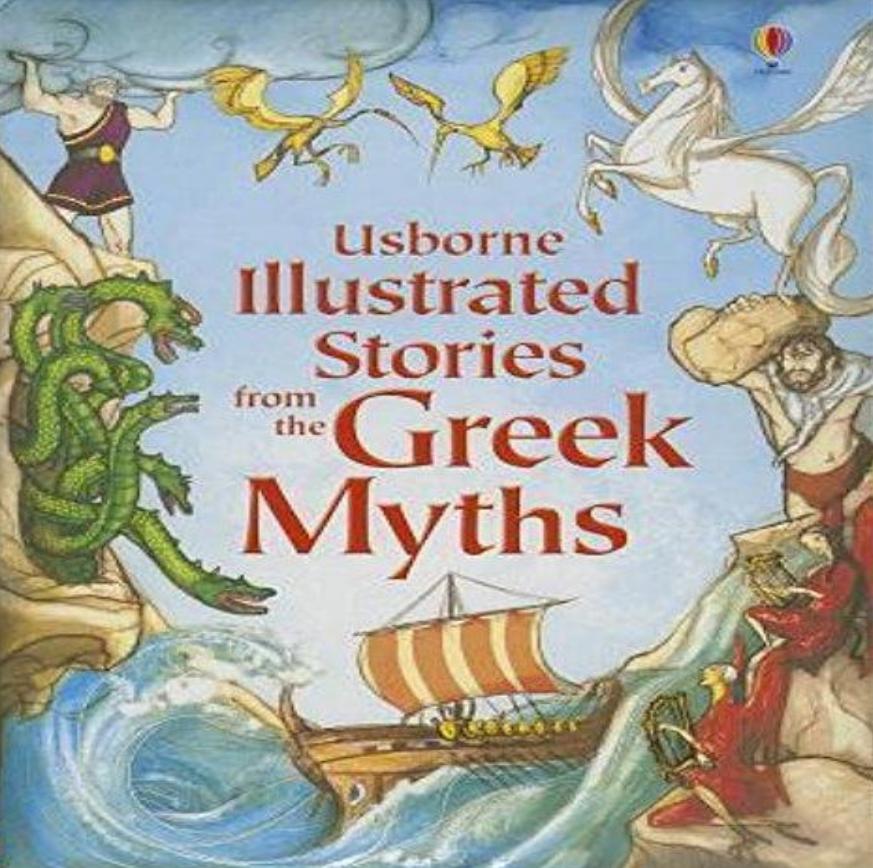


The Wonderful
Wizard of Oz

Story of My Life...

- **Myth**

- **Unknown Origin**
- **Used to explain the world or values**
 - **Could be *history, natural phenomenon, religions, leaders...***
- **Often connected to religion**
 - **Hercules, Thor, Ra**
 - **Could today's “*religion*” be tomorrow's “*myth*”?**



What

- **Fable**
- **Short story**
- **MAY be a known author**
- **Typically with animals**
 - **Behaving as humans, to teach human frailties**
- **Has a moral**
 - **A lesson that should be taken away**
 - **The Tortoise and the Hare, Ugly Duckling, Snake and the Mountain**

Chicken Little

A Tale about Common Sense

The Tortoise and the Hare

A Tale about Determination

The Three Little Pigs

A Tale about Working Hard

The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin

A Story about Being Polite

The Little Red Hen

A Tale about Cooperation

The Nightingale

A Tale of Compassion

What

- **Fairytales**
- **Usually a known author**
- **But OFTEN REPEATED (adjusted for the local culture)**
- **Magic, Mythical Beings, Imaginary**
- **Happy Ending**
- **Snow White, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Little Mermaid**

The most famous fairy tales

Illustration series



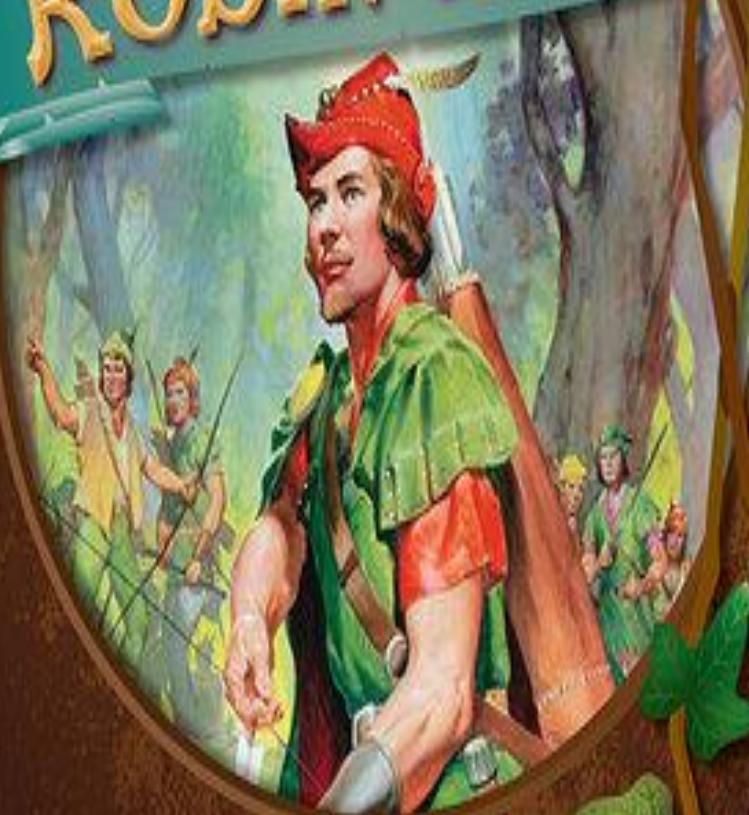
What

- **Legend**
 - Treated as historical
 - Often involves real people
 - Teaches a lesson as well
 - *Something to copy or NOT copy*
 - ***Robin Hood, King Arthur, George Washington and the Cherry Tree***

Famous
Legends

Famous
Legends

The Legend of Robin Hood



The Legend of King Arthur



So What?

- Anthropologists can often look to the “stories” (or folklore) of a people, to gauge what norms, values, events, etc. a society had, or was focused on
- Just think of what future generations could learn from watching OUT Tik-Tok, but also the movies, books, etc.?
- In the end it may be our stories, and not US, that actually last. And those tales are truly the “last of us...”

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