### Characteristics of Traditional Stories

| 1. Folk Tale          | A story/legend from oral tradition.  
|                       | - More often told than read  
|                       | - Handed down between generations  
|                       | - Universal/timeless themes  
|                       | - Tries to make sense of our existence, help humans cope, explain origin of something.  
| 2. Fairy Tale         | A fanciful tale of legendary deeds and creatures.  
|                       | - Usually intended for children  
|                       | - Improbable events lead to a happy ending (usually)  
|                       | - Often involve magic and good triumphing over evil  
| 3. Tall Tale          | A humorous, exaggerated story about impossible events.  
|                       | - Focuses on the achievements of a hero/heroine who is bigger, stronger, and louder than an average person.  

4. Fable | Teaches a lesson or moral about human nature.
- Usually includes animals with human qualities.
- The moral is either directly or indirectly stated through what happens in the story.
- Example: Aesop’s Fable: The Hare and the Tortoise.

5. Legend | A story handed down through many generations and believed to be based on real people and events.
- A hero/heroine with unusual powers
- Focuses on a struggle to defeat a powerful force
- Highlights a positive quality or way of behaving

6. Myth | A traditional story created to explain mysteries of the universe ex: fire, thunder, lightning. Can also explain customs/ideals of society.
- Features gods and supernatural beings
- Emphasizes behavior flaws
- Reveals consequences of good and bad behavior