

Katherine Stinson

Tackling Tall Tales 110 min

Objective:

Students will be able to analyze and explain central ideas or themes of text using key supporting details and digital media. [RL.2.2, RL 3.2, SL.K.5, SL.K1.5, SL2.5, SL.3.5, SL.4.5, SL.5.5]

Big Idea:

Why was exaggeration used to tell stories?

1. Warm Up / Anticipatory

- Have students make predictions about the text and record their predictions in their journal.
- Engage students with the reading of the book John Henry by Ezra Jack Keats via <https://youtu.be/AsEGhBsMO4s>
- Discuss key vocabulary terms: exaggeration, tale, legend

Resources

- John Henry: An American Legend
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsEGhBsMO4s&feature=youtu.be>

2. Investigation and New Learning

1. Students will write three wonders about tall tales on the Inquiring Minds chart.
2. Students will write the big question in the center of their Inquiring Minds chart.
3. In groups, students will investigate other tall tales and legends to verify their wonders.
4. Students will record on their chart any new wonders.
5. Students will record notes and key supporting details from their investigations/answers to their wonders in their journals.
6. Each group will use their Inquiring Minds chart and notes to discuss their

research with the class.

7. Students will create their own tall tale.
8. Each group's tall tale will be recorded using digital media and shared with an authentic audience.

Resources

- http://wg.wonderopolis.org/uploads/users/671/246/Inquiring_Minds_1.JPG

3. Review & Check for Understanding

Each student will respond in their journal to the big question.

Note: Extend this lesson by having students create a digital recording complete with illustrations of their tall tale in Spanish. Share with parents and other classes via the class webpage, YouTube page, Facebook page, Twitter or special class presentations. *Please adjust times for your classroom as needed for this lesson.