

Unit 7: Tall Tales

text	author	level	location
Tall Tales 4 th Grade set (connects geography into a close reading lesson) Mike Fink Paul Bunyan Storm along Sally Ann Thunder Ann Febold Feboldson	varied	varied	Reading A-Z
Annie Oakley	Rus Buyok	Level O (F&P M)	Reading A-Z
The Legend of John Henry	Heather Banks	Level M (F&P L)	Reading A-Z
Paul Bunyan	Carol Shenk	Level O (F&P M)	Reading A-Z
Pecos Bill Rides a Tornado	John Moder	Level O (F&P M)	Reading A-Z
Pecos Bill Tames a Rough Bunch	Sharon Fear	Grades 2 3	Reading A-Z
Tall Tales Mini Books			PDF set

Unit 7: Tall Tales

digital text	location
Tall Tale Theme	http://youtu.be/CelbjfpqyS4
Disney's John Henry	http://youtu.be/oeUmY_QSA4w
John Henry (Harry Belafonte's song)	http://youtu.be/g6vcvYJckic
Disney's Pecos Bill	http://youtu.be/PdIbSZGu8TY
Pecos Bill Told by Robin Williams	http://youtu.be/yNswbV4BLWk
Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind (4 th grade play performance)	http://youtu.be/4G0qvU9oD14
Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind (5 th Grade retelling)	http://youtu.be/ILAXgGMabmA
The Ballad of Davy Crockett	http://youtu.be/BAhAarI1Zig
Davy Crockett (Audio reading of a book with pages shown)	http://youtu.be/3jz98cmtdQ8
Paul Bunyan animated classic	http://youtu.be/nz5KZA06C8
Disney's Paul Bunyan	http://youtu.be/uPt822HC5w
Annie Oakley Biography	http://youtu.be/QAyrBe219Ms
Adventureres Cartoon (features Buffalo Bill's Wild West show)	http://youtu.be/MQbF5Wokekw

Unit 6

I can	My Goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ I can do this with help☐ I can do this by myself☐ I can do this with a hard text	<p>I can make connections between the written text of a story and a visual or oral presentation of the text.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ I can do this with help☐ I can do this by myself☐ I can do this with a hard text	<p>I can make connections between a written text and a dramatic interpretation of the same text.</p>

**I can make connections
between the written text of a
story and a visual or oral
presentation of the text.**

**I can make connections
between a written text and a
dramatic interpretation of
the same text.**

Unit 7

Standard	Suggested Mini Lessons
RL 4.7 Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text, identifying where each version reflects specific descriptions and directions in the text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> How do I make connections between a written text of a story and a visual or oral presentation of the text?<input type="checkbox"/> How can I make connections between a written text and a dramatic interpretation of the same text?
Supporting Standard Mini Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> How can I use details to explain answers found explicitly in the text and to make inferences?<input type="checkbox"/> How do I describe a character's motives and actions in depth and locate or provide specific details from the text?<input type="checkbox"/> How can I describe a setting in depth and locate or provide specific details from the text?<input type="checkbox"/> How can I describe an event in depth and locate or provide specific details from the text?<input type="checkbox"/> How can I compare or contrast how similar themes are presented in stories and traditional literature?<input type="checkbox"/> How can I compare how similar patterns of events are presented in stories and traditional literature from different cultures?

Lesson: Introduction to Tall Tales

Show students this video: <http://youtu.be/CelbjfpqyS4>

Students should brainstorm what this video tells them about the genre of Tall Tales. What are they? What types of stories do they tell? Etc.

You may teach this unit in any way that best meets the needs of your students. The following page has a suggested activity your students might enjoy. This unit also includes stories and graphic organizers to help students organize their thinking.

Suggested Activity: (If time is an issue)

1. Split your class into small groups.
2. Assign each group a Tall Tale figure.
3. Provide each group with the text story of their figure as well as the visual representation.
4. Groups should work together to fill out the graphic organizer for their figure, then watch the visual presentation. They should take notes on each in order to compare and contrast the two.

Things to think about if doing this activity:

How long will students have to work?

What should their end goal be?

Will they be presenting this information to the class? How?

Assessment: (See formative assessments)

Students will be using their tall tale as a basis for creating a media representation of the same tall tale. They will need to work as a group to plan their project.

Lesson: Introduction to Tall Tales

continued

While you have the book *American Tall Tales* by Mary Pope Osborne, you will need to read the following stories:

"Davy Crockett" - pages 3 - 13

"Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind" - pages 15 - 23

"Stormalong" - pages 37 - 49

"Pecos Bill" - pages 73 - 85

"Paul Bunyan" - pages 97 - 109

Activities:

You will need to do the following activity for **each** of these stories:

For each tale that you read, locate the areas mentioned on your map of the U.S., making up a legend that goes with each tale.

Fill out a rating sheet for each story that you read.

Each story has specific activities for you to do. As you complete an activity, check it off on your chart.

"Davy Crockett"

Mike Fink and Davy Crockett have some difficulties that they settle by fighting. How would you get Davy and Mike to settle their problems more peacefully? Write out a conversation between the two that helps them to solve their problems. You should write this dialogue with a partner, it should be at least a page long, and should be properly punctuated.

"Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind"

On a separate piece of paper, write down at least five (5) examples of exaggeration that you find in this story. Also, make a list of five (5) similes you find.

In a paragraph, explain why you think Sally Ann believes in women's rights. Your reasons should come from the way she acts and the things she says.

"Stormalong"

Find out how long a fathom is. Then using the second floor hall, mark off how long Stormalong would be if he laid down in the hall.

Chart Stormalong's journey from Boston to Kansas.

"Pecos Bill"

Make a Missing Person poster for Pecos Bill. Include what he looked like, where he was last seen, and what his habits were. This poster should be colored in, and must include at least five (5) important facts about Pecos.

"Paul Bunyan"

Write a diary entry as if you were one of Paul's parents. Explain how you are coping with the enormous size of Paul. **This diary entry should be at least a page in length.**

You are a representative from the Sierra Club, a group that is trying to protect the environment. Write a letter to Paul that will try to convince him to stop cutting down all the trees in the wilderness. What ideas will help him be convinced that cutting is bad for the country? **Make this a business letter at least a page in length.**

How are Paul and Stormalong alike? Make a chart that compares the two. (See character comparisons chart in lessons).

Compare and Contrast Characters

Character 1: _____

Character 2: _____

Character Similarities

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Character 1 Differences

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Character 2 Differences

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

COMPARE: Use words like
• both, like, too, similar

CONTRAST: Use words like
• differ, whereas, but, unlike

Lesson: Comparing Illustrations to the Text

Text: Use any Tall Tale text, or other fiction resource with clear illustrations.

- Explain to students that authors often use illustrations to help us understand what the text is saying.
- Pick a few illustrations from the text to pull out and use as the focus of your lesson.
- Model with an illustration. Find the line/lines of text that connect to that image.
- Model for students how to explain that illustration's connection to the text. How do they connect? Why did the illustrator draw that picture? Etc.

Use the graphic organizer to help organize your thoughts.

Repeat lesson as many times as is necessary to help students understand the standard. The graphic organizer on the next page WILL BE ON THE FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT AT THE END OF THE UNIT.

Comparing Text and Illustrations

Illustration 1

Text evidence of illustration connection

Student explanation of the connection

Illustration 1

Text evidence of illustration connection

Student explanation of the connection

Lesson: Comparing Text to the Digital Version of a Text

Text: Use any Tall Tale text provided or another fiction text of your choosing. If you are using a tall tale, digital versions are listed on page 2 of this document (mostly from youtube.

- Explain to students that many texts we enjoy are turned into movies, shows, and other digital media. Brainstorm a list of popular movies or shows that began as books.
- Read a text version of a tall tale.
- Show students the digital version
- Use the graphic organizer to help organize your thoughts, comparing and contrasting the similarities and differences.

Thinks to think about and discuss:

Why was the digital version different? What did they change and why do you think those ideas/situations were different?

What was the same? Was it important to the story to keep these ideas/situations the same?

Repeat lesson as many times as necessary to give students mastery of the standard.

Compare and Contrast Versions

Text 1: _____

Digital Text 2: _____

Text Similarities

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Text 1 Differences

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Digital Text 2 Differences

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

COMPARE: Use words like
• both, like, too, similar

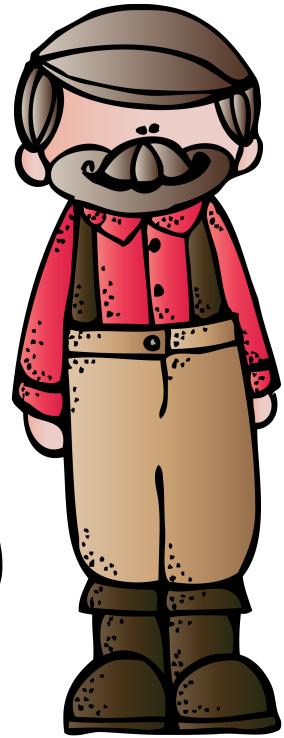
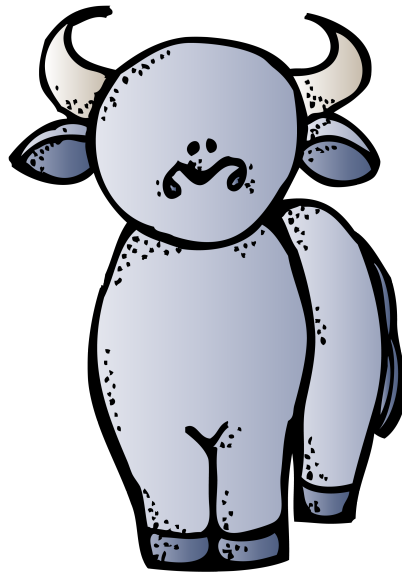
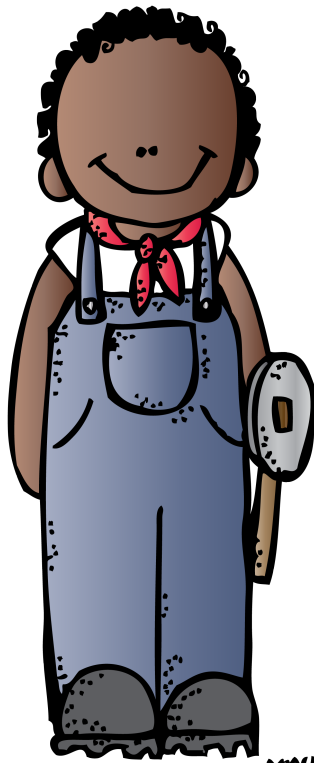
CONTRAST: Use words like
• differ, whereas, but, unlike

Social Studies Connection: The Regions of the US

Refer to the Reading A-Z Close Read set on Tall Tales and Geography.

The unit focuses on mapping the region of the US where each Tall Tale originated. Class discussions can focus and center around how the origin of the Tall Tale affects the content (i.e. tales from the “Wild West”)

Tall Tales



a story about a larger-than life character, based on a real person, who has exaggerated adventures

Example: Paul Bunyan

Introduction to Tall Tales

Tall tales began in the 1800's as a way for pioneers to understand the greatness of the American west. There were huge forests, ferocious animals, deserts, and mountains. The pioneers were trying to conquer these elements, and that was a scary business. The heroes and heroines in the tall tales were also huge and often ferocious. They made the taming of America a little easier to handle.

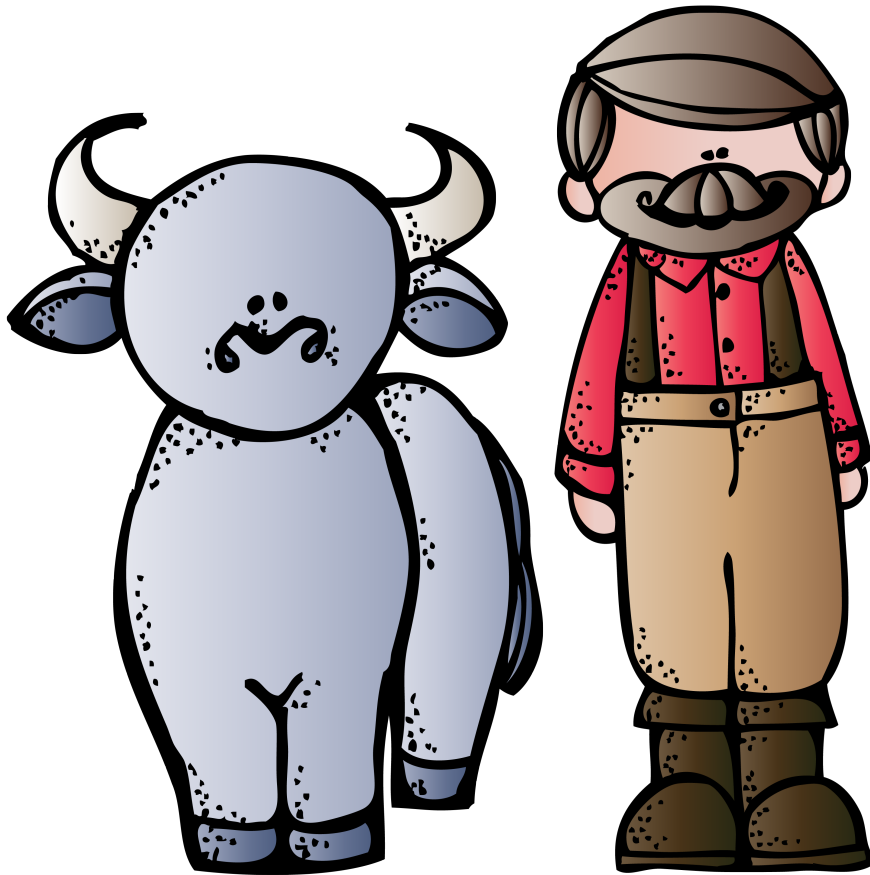
Some of the heroes and heroines in tall tales are real people like Davy Crockett and Johnny Appleseed. Their stories got exaggerated a lot. Other tall tale characters were not real people. Characters included sea captains, loggers, railroad workers, cowboys, and firefighters. Tall tale tellers combined information about what was really happening at the time with wild tall tale fantasy.

There were a few bad things about tall tales. In general, they were very negative towards African Americans, Native Americans, women, and animals. They also took a pretty dim view of the environment. After all, the people in the tales were trying to conquer the wilderness of American. The best way to do that, they thought, was to cut down every tree in sight, take whatever land they needed, and use people to help the country grow. We know today that the approach used in the nineteenth century was not a good one.

Some of the tall tales we'll read will be a little bit more human than others. There is still some violence, but that was part of America in the 1800's. The tall tales you'll read will have great metaphors and similes. The amount of exaggeration is immense, but that's what makes them fun to read. **Go Ahead Now..., Read, Learn, Laugh, and Imagine!**

Paul Bunyan

(and Babe the Big Blue Ox)



Can a man and a blue ox be
abnormally large and
exceptionally strong?



Paul Bunyan's Kitchen

retold by S.E. Schlosser

One winter, Paul Bunyan came to log along the Little Gimlet in Oregon. Ask any old timer who was logging that winter, and they'll tell you I ain't lying when I say his kitchen covered about ten miles of territory.

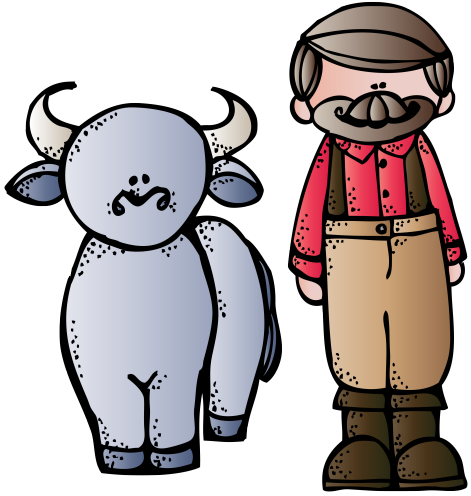
That stove, now, she were a grand one. An acre long, taller than a scrub pine, and when she was warm, she melted the snow for about twenty miles around. The men logging in the vicinity never had to put on their jackets 'til about noon on a day when Paul Bunyan wanted flapjacks.

It was quite a site to see, that cook of Paul Bunyan's making flapjacks. Cookie would send four of the boys up with a side of hog tied to each of their snowshoes, and they'd skate around up there keeping the griddle greased while Cookie and seven other men flipped flapjacks for Paul Bunyan. Took them about an hour to make enough flapjacks to fill him up. The rest of us had to wait our turn.

The table we had set up for the camp was about ten miles long. We rigged elevators to the table to bring the vittles to each end, and some of the younger lads in the camp rode bicycles down the path at the center, carrying cakes and such wherever they were called for.

We had one mishap that winter. Babe the Blue Ox accidentally knocked a bag of dried peas off the countertop when he swished his tail. Well, them peas flew so far and so fast out of the kitchen that they knocked over a dozen loggers coming home for lunch, clipped the tops off of several pine trees, and landed in the hot spring. We had pea soup to eat for the rest of the season, which was okay by me, but them boys whose Mama's insisted they bath more than once a year were pretty sore at losing their swimming hole.

Tall Tale: Paul Bunyan (and Babe the Big Blue Ox)



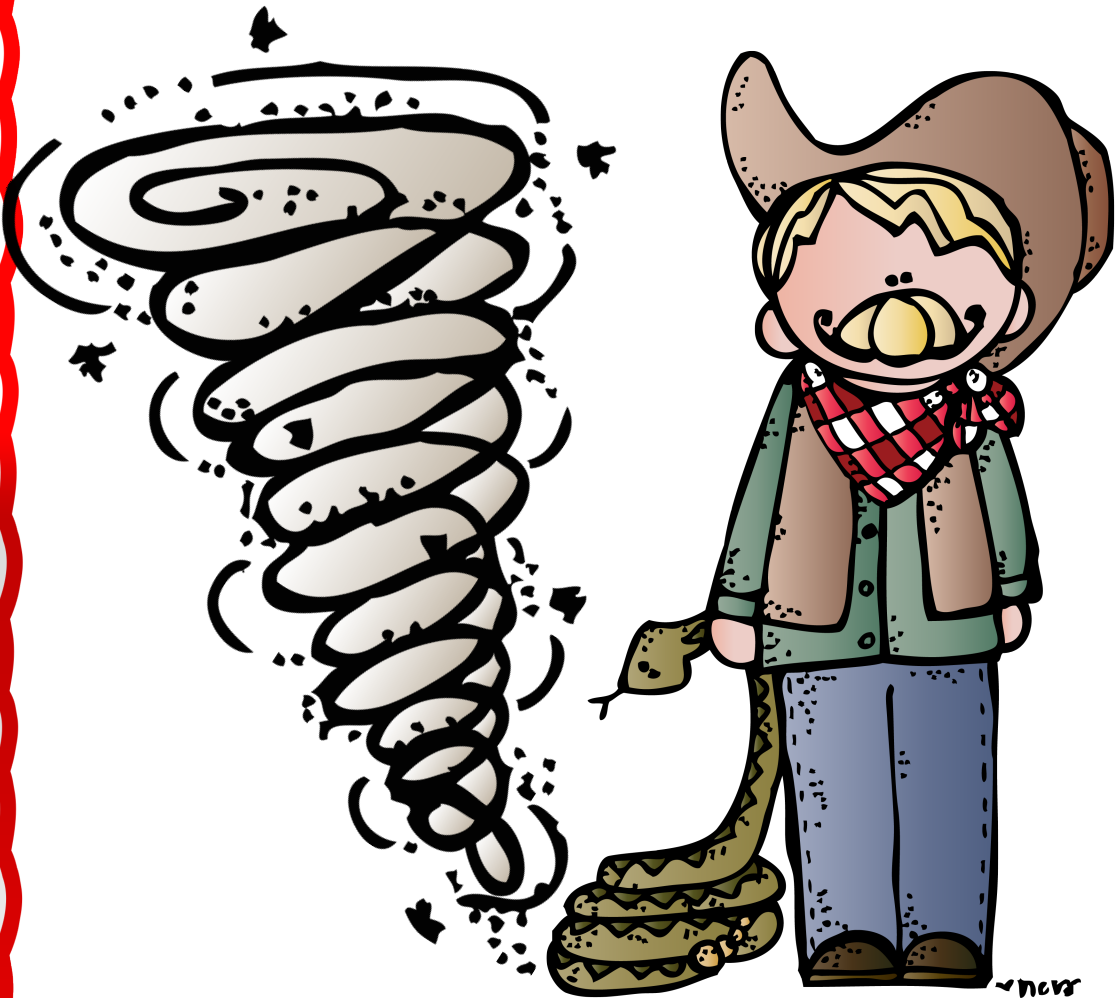
Larger than life
(superhuman) abilities:

Problem (what went
wrong?):

Solution (usually solved
in a funny way):

Exaggeration:

Pecos Bill



Can a man tame a rattle
snake and ride a tornado?



Tall Tale: Pecos Bill



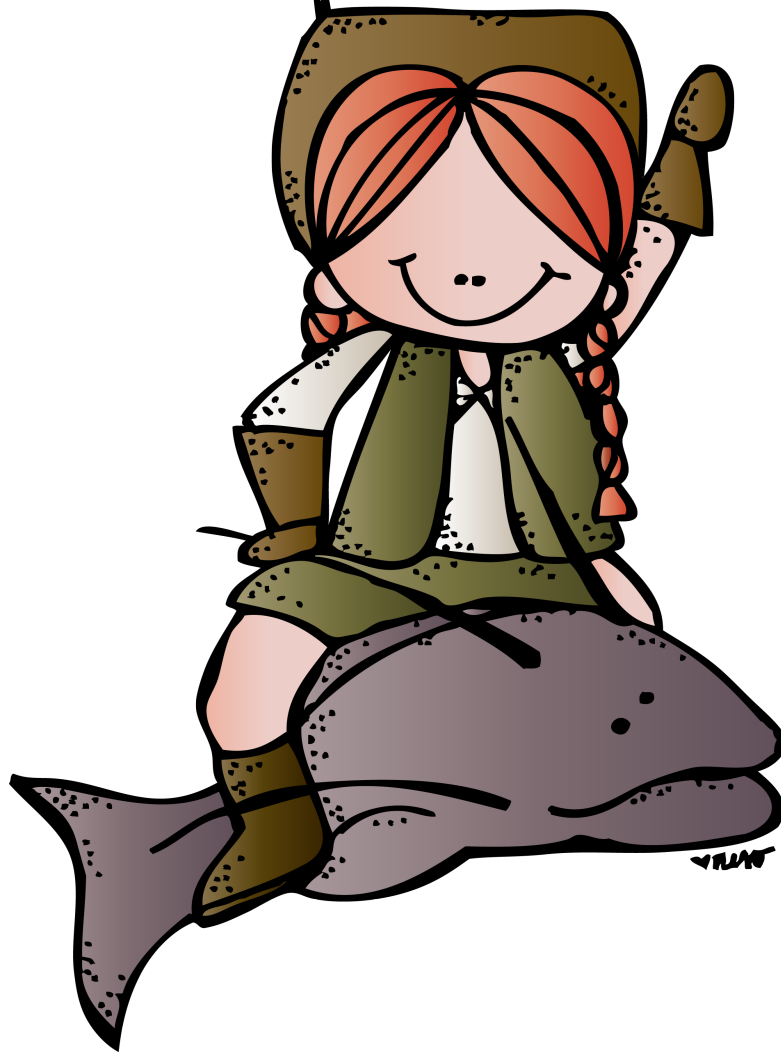
Larger than life
(superhuman) abilities:

Problem (what went
wrong?):

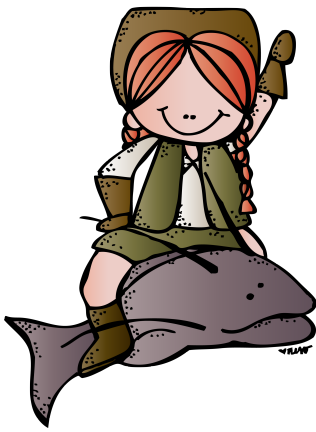
Solution (usually solved
in a funny way):

Exaggeration:

Blue-foot Sue



Can a woman end a drought
by bouncing to the heavens?



Slue-Foot Sue

Slue-Foot Sue was one of the great ladies of the Texas frontier. She was about as famous as her cowboy husband, Pecos Bill. Slue-Foot Sue met Bill when she was riding past his ranch. She was on the back of the world's largest catfish. It was love at first sight! Bill proposed marriage on the spot. Sue said she would marry Bill on two conditions. First, she wanted a brand-new, store-bought wedding dress with a bustle. Second, she wanted to ride Bill's horse, Widow Maker, to the wedding.

Bill rode nonstop to Dallas that very afternoon. He picked up the prettiest wedding dress you ever did see. Meeting the second condition wasn't quite as easy. Bill knew Sue was a mighty good rider, but no one besides Bill had ever ridden Widow Maker.

Sue dressed in the beautiful wedding gown. She mounted Widow Maker. Sue's bustle touched the horse's back. Widow maker bucked. Sue was blasted clean out of the saddle and into space. She fell back to the ground. Her store-bought bustle was like a spring. She must have bounced to the ground twenty times before Bill was able to lasso her.

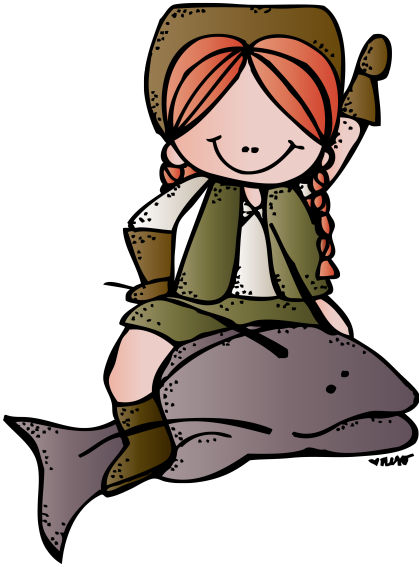
Sue told Bill to gather up lots of rope. She climbed with Bill to the highest mountain on their ranch. They set to work tying all the ropes together. They made the longest lasso anyone had ever seen.

She pointed to the Little Dipper. She told Pecos Bill to lasso the handle of the constellation. Bill began to spin the loop of his lasso larger and larger, faster and faster. Finally he let it go. It went streaking into the sky. Bill and Sue waited for hours. At last, the loop of the lasso found the handle of the Little Dipper. Bill and Sue pulled and tugged on the end of the lasso all through the night. Finally, the Dipper began to tip toward the Earth.

The first rays of the morning sun peeked over the horizon. The water from the Little Dipper began to spill toward the Earth. The great Texas drought was finally at an end thanks to Slue-Foot Sue, her bustle, and her out-of-this-world ride.

During this unplanned space trip, Sue found a solution to a really big problem. You see, Texas was in the middle of a humongous drought. The drought had lasted so long that children didn't even know what rain was. It was so dry that spit disappeared before it ever hit the ground. All the cattle walked around with their tongues hanging out. They made puny, dry, coughing noises.

Tall Tale: Blue-Foot Sue



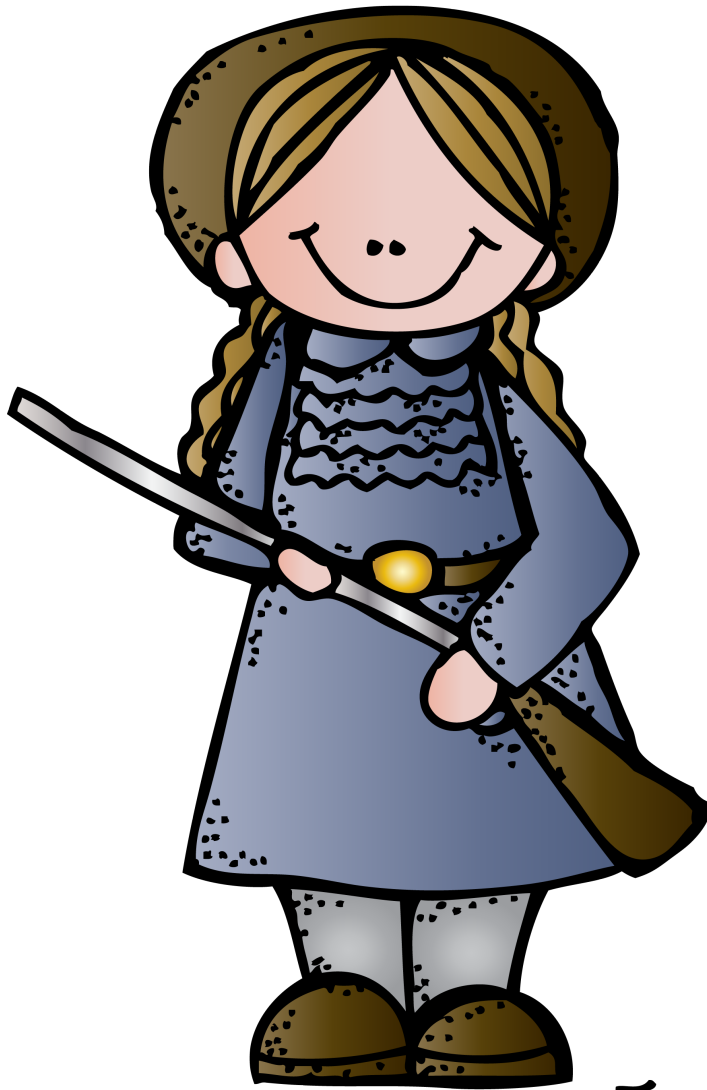
Larger than life
(superhuman) abilities:

Problem (what went
wrong?):

Solution (usually solved
in a funny way):

Exaggeration:

Annie Oakley



Can a petite woman be the
best shot in the west?



Annie Oakley

Her name was **Phoebe Moses** and she was born in Darke County, Ohio in 1860 and she could shoot the head off a running quail when she was twelve years old.

Once, at the invitation of Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, she knocked the ashes off a cigarette he was holding in his mouth.

When she out-shot the great exhibition marksman, Frank Butler, he fell in love with her and they were ideally happy the rest of their long lives.

She could handle a rifle or a six-gun with an artistry unsurpassed by that of any human being before her time or, probably, since. And when she appeared with Sitting Bull and other notables in Colonel Cody's Wild West Show, she thrilled your father and mother -- not as Phoebe Anne Oakley Moses but as "Little Sure Shot," the immortal Annie Oakley.

Annie Oakley, the poor back-country orphan girl who made her way to world-wide fame, was the very spirit of personal independence. That spirit is just as much alive in our generation as it was in hers. It is among the great assets of our people -- and our nation. And it is one very great reason why our country's Savings Bonds are perhaps the finest investment in the world today.

Make that investment work for you! Increase your personal independence and your family's security, by buying Bonds regularly -- starting now!

For your own security -- and your country's, too -- invest in U.S. Savings Bonds!

(from a 1955 U.S. Government advertisement)

Tall Tale: Annie Oakley



Larger than life
(superhuman) abilities:

Problem (what went
wrong?):

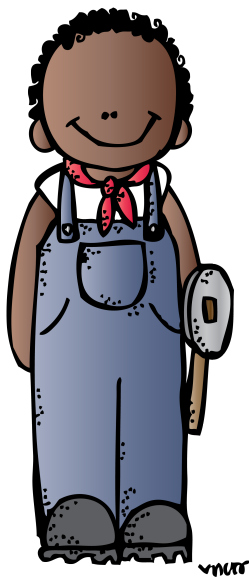
Solution (usually solved
in a funny way):

Exaggeration:

John Henry



Can a man single-handedly
carve out a tunnel?



John Henry

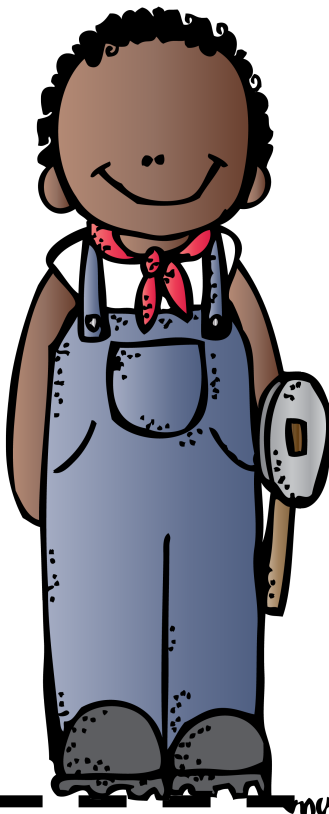
Now John Henry was a mighty man, yes sir. He was born a slave in the 1840's but was freed after the war. He went to work as a steel-driver for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, don't ya know. And John Henry was the strongest, the most powerful man working the rails. John Henry, he would spend his day's drilling holes by hitting thick steel spikes into rocks with his faithful shaker crouching close to the hole, turning the drill after each mighty blow. There was no one who could match him, though many tried.

Well, the new railroad was moving along right quick, thanks in no little part to the mighty John Henry. But looming right smack in its path was a mighty enemy - the Big Bend Mountain. Now the big bosses at the C&O Railroad decided that they couldn't go around the mile and a quarter thick mountain. No sir, the men of the C&O were going to go through it - drilling right into the heart of the mountain.

A thousand men would lose their lives before the great enemy was conquered. It took three long years, and before it was done the ground outside the mountain was filled with makeshift, sandy graves. The new tunnels were filled with smoke and dust. Ya couldn't see no-how and could hardly breathe. But John Henry, he worked tirelessly, drilling with a 14-pound hammer, and going 10 to 12 feet in one workday. No one else could match him.

Then one day a salesman came along to the camp. He had a steam-powered drill and claimed it could out-drill any man. Well, they set up a contest then and there between John Henry and that there drill. The foreman ran that newfangled steam-drill. John Henry, he just pulled out two 20-pound hammers, one in each hand. They drilled and drilled, dust rising everywhere. The men were howling and cheering. At the end of 35 minutes, John Henry had drilled two seven foot holes - a total of fourteen feet, while the steam drill had only drilled one nine-foot hole.

John Henry held up his hammers in triumph! The men shouted and cheered. The noise was so loud, it took a moment for the men to realize that John Henry was tottering. Exhausted, the mighty man crashed to the ground, the hammer's rolling from his grasp. The crowd went silent as the foreman rushed to his side. But it was too late. A blood vessel had burst in his brain. The greatest driller in the C&O Railroad was dead. Some folks say that John Henry's likeness is carved right into the rock inside the Big Bend Tunnel. And if you walk to the edge of the blackness of the tunnel, sometimes you can hear the sound of two 20-pound hammers drilling their way to victory over the machine.



Tall Tale: John Henry

Larger than life
(superhuman) abilities:

Problem (what went
wrong?):

Solution (usually solved
in a funny way):

Exaggeration:

Calamity Jane



Is there a woman every^{one} bit
as tough as a man?



Tall Tale: Calamity Jane

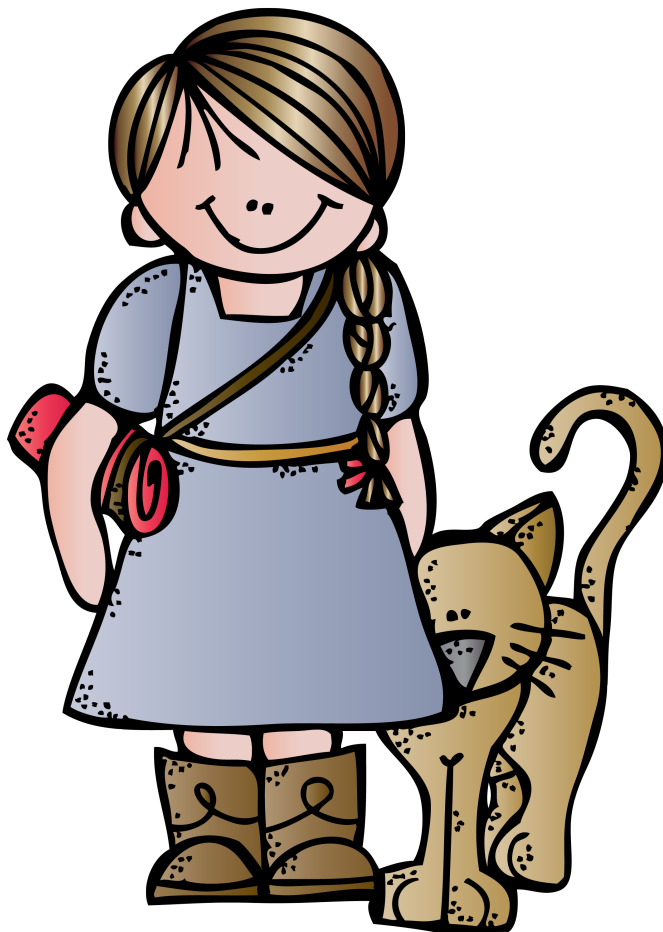
Larger than life
(superhuman) abilities:

Problem (what went
wrong?):

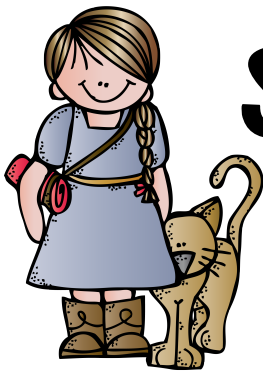
Solution (usually solved
in a funny way):

Exaggeration:

Sally Ann Thunder
Ann Whirlwind



Can a girl out grin, out run, out lift, out
sneeze, out sleep, out lie, and out tug
any old scamp from Maine to
Louisiana?



Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind

It was more than 200 years ago now when Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind came into this world. The Whirlwind family had nine boys already, and then there she was - a brand new daughter! Right away Sally Ann looked up at that family of hers, and before they knew what was happening, she just started to talk. "Hello! I'm Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind! And I am amazing!"

Now people say her parents just stood and stared for a minute at that little talking baby. Then they grinned real wide. "You're right, little daughter of ours. You are amazing!"

Sally Ann's brothers had wanted another brother, so they weren't too impressed by this little girl. But Sally Ann wasn't going to put up with that nonsense, so she looked at those brothers of hers, and she said: "Brothers, let me tell you something! Whatever any one of you can do, I can do better!"

Naturally the boys didn't believe her. After all, she was only a baby! But Sally Ann was even more amazing than she said she was. By the time she was one, she could run faster than all her brothers; she could race a wildcat. When she was four, she beat those brothers of hers at arm wrestling. So pretty soon those brothers were proud of Sally Ann. They began to enter her in big contests. Sally Ann ran faster than all the runners in Tennessee. Sally Ann out-wrestled all the arm wrestlers. By the time she was seven, she was the mightiest member of Tennessee's Tug 'o War Team.

Now Sally Ann was tough, and she was sassy, and she was pretty, too, and she was just as sweet as honey, so sweet the hornets let her wear their nests for her Sunday-go-to-Church hat. Here's the thing about Sally Ann. She was a sweetheart, but she didn't like folks to call her that. "Don't call me sweetie," she told anyone who tried. "I can out grin and out run and out lift and out sneeze and out sleep and out lie and out tug any old scamp from Maine to Louisiana." And that was true.

When Sally was a little bit older, she decided it was time to see more of the world, so she said to her family, "I'm off to see the world," and she set off on her own two feet to explore the wild frontier. As soon as the weather turned cold that first winter, she crawled into a cave and hibernated with the bears to stay warm. Now when spring came that year, Papa Bear woke and saw he wasn't alone, and he wasn't too happy.

He began to paw at the ground, and he looked at Sally Ann, and he growled his deepest, meanest, grisliest, scariest growl. But Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind just grinned at him. Sally Ann had this fabulous grin, and nothing scared her, and that bear was so surprised to see this tough little girl just smiling at him, he fell over in a faint. So while that bear was passed out, Sally Ann raced out of the cave.

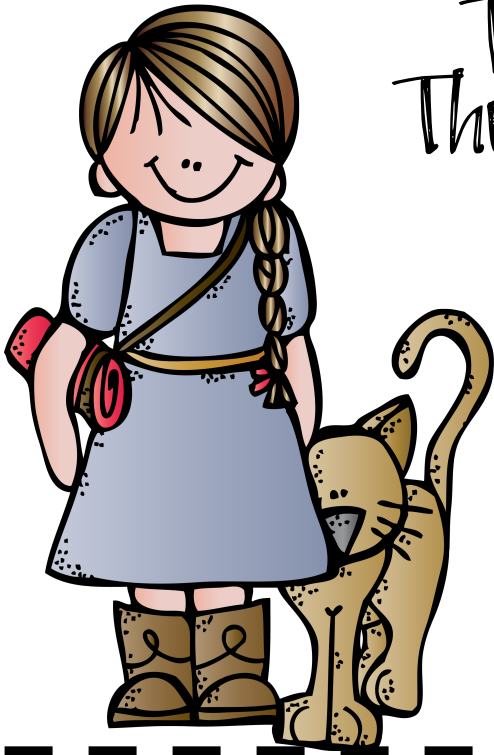
All through that spring and deep into the high heat of summer, Sally Ann kept right on running and walking and wandering, taking in the big, wide world. They say it was one day that spring, right after she surprised that bear, that Sally Ann came upon a hickory tree and saw something strange. It was a man's head, and that head was wearing a coonskin cap, and that head was stuck in the crook of that hickory tree. But this wasn't just any man. The fella stuck in that tree was the famous Davy Crockett, king of the wild frontier.

Sally Ann took a long, hard look at that fella stuck in the tree, but she didn't recognize him. She squinted. And she said, "Now how're we gonna set you free?" Before Davy could answer, Sally Ann spotted a nest of rattlesnakes beside that tree. That gave her a great idea, so she cried, "I got it!" And she snatched those rattlesnakes; all six of them, and she knotted those snakes together so she had a nice fat snake lasso. Then she lassoed the hickory branch and she tugged, one stiff tug, and POP! Davy's head was set free.

Naturally Davy was mightily impressed. He introduced himself to Sally Ann. "I'm Davy Crockett, king of the wild frontier! You know, the one they sing the song about..." Sally Ann grinned. She liked the look of this Davy Crockett. Everyone knew him; he was famous far and wide. And Sally Ann thought for one half of one second, and then she said, "Davy, how's this sound? Let's get married!" So that's what they did. People say Sally Ann and Davy were mighty happy. They had ten children. Now they named their first son Hardstone, and soon after he was born, Davy Crockett had to leave home for a while to go to Washington. He kissed Sally Ann and Hardstone goodbye. He wouldn't be back for a while; he had a lot of work to do in Washington. But he and Sally Ann knew everyone would be just fine.

That very night, just as Sally Ann was lying down to go to sleep, she looked out the window and saw a whole gang of ferocious alligators surrounding their house. Now Sally Ann was determined to protect that little baby of theirs, so she ran outside and she began to fling those alligators this way and that. From that day on, everyone in the whole wide world knew that Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind was the bravest woman anywhere, and the strongest, and the fastest, and the toughest. Well, most people knew. Some folks didn't believe it, and sometimes they tried to test her strength and her courage and her wit and her wisdom and her kindness. But every time they did, they discovered it was true; Sally Ann was just exactly like she said, truly amazing.

Tall Tale: Sally Ann Thunder Anne Whirlwind



Larger than life
(superhuman) abilities:

Problem (what went
wrong?):

Solution (usually solved
in a funny way):

Exaggeration:

Davy Crocket



Can a man melt ice blocks
on the sun?



Davy Crockett and the Frozen Dawn: A Tennessee Tall Tale

One winter, it was so cold that the dawn froze solid. The sun got caught between two ice blocks, and the earth iced up so much that it couldn't turn. The first rays of sunlight froze halfway over the mountain tops. They looked like yellow icicles dripping towards the ground.

Now Davy Crockett was headed home after a successful night hunting when the dawn froze up so solid. Being a smart man, he knew he had to do something quick or the earth was a goner. He had a freshly killed bear on his back, so he whipped it off, climbed right up on those rays of sunlight and began beating the hot bear against the ice blocks which were squashing the sun. Soon a gush of hot oil burst out of the bear and it melted the ice. Davy gave the sun a good hard kick to get it started, and the sun's heat unfroze the earth and started it spinning again. So Davy lit his pipe on the sun, shouldered the bear, slid himself down the sun rays before they melted, and took a bit of sunrise home in his pocket.



Tall Tale: Davy Crockett

Larger than life
(superhuman) abilities:

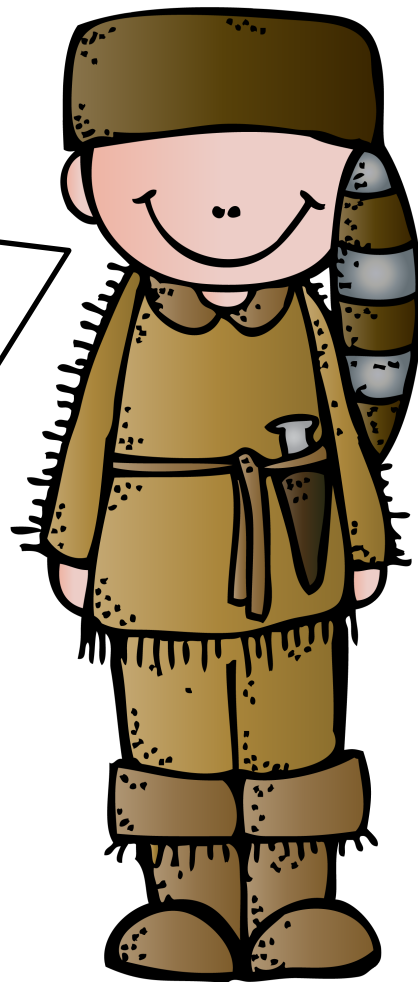
Problem (what went wrong?):

Solution (usually solved in a funny way):

Exaggeration:

Character Analysis

You can analyze a character by using traits to describe each character's personality, beliefs, or morals.



Character Thinking Stems

Who are the characters that are introduced in your book?

What do you know about the characters?

Who is telling the story? How do you know?

Noticing Information Across a Text
Write words or phrases to help you remember
information about the character or subject.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Character: _____

1.

2.

3.

4.

5

6.

7.

8.

9.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

How Do Characters Contribute to the Story?

Character	Character's Actions:	How their actions impacted the story:

Compare and Contrast



Woo-eee! When we compare and contrast characters, it means you find things that the characters have in common, as well as things that are different.

Compare and Contrast

Compare means to
tell how things are
the same.

Contrast means to
tell how things are
the different.

What are Character Traits?

Character traits are words that describe a person's personality, values or beliefs.

Do Tall Tales Have Characters With Traits?

Of course! We can find character traits for any character we read about. Many times, characters will do things in a story that help us make inferences about their personality, values, or beliefs.

How Can I Compare the Character Traits of Two Different Tall Tale Characters ?

When we compare and contrast we find things that are the same and different. Think about two different tall tale characters you've read. Think about words that can be used to describe those characters. Was there anything similar about them? What was different?

Compare and Contrast Characters

Character 1: _____

Character 2: _____

Character Similarities

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Character 1 Differences

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Character 2 Differences

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

COMPARE: Use words like
• both, like, too, similar

CONTRAST: Use words like
• differ, whereas, but, unlike

Compare and Contrast Versions

Text 1: _____

Digital Text 2: _____

Text Similarities

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Text 1 Differences

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Digital Text 2 Differences

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

COMPARE: Use words like
• both, like, too, similar

CONTRAST: Use words like
• differ, whereas, but, unlike

Analyze Story Structure

Well Howdy!
Story structure is anything that has to do with the characters, setting, or plot.



What is Plot?

The plot is the problem of a story and how it is solved.

Do Tall Tales Have a Plot?

Of course! All fiction stories have a plot. In Tall Tales, it is usually a bit unbelievable because the characters do things that are a far-fetched.

How Can I Compare the Plot of Two Different Tall Tales?

When we compare and contrast we find things that are the same and different.

Think about two different tall tales you've read. Think about the problem the characters had to solve. Was there anything similar about how they solved their problems? What there anything different?

Compare and Contrast Plots

Story 1: _____

Story 2: _____

Plot Similarities

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Plot 1 Differences

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Plot 2 Differences

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

COMPARE: Use words like
• both, like, too, similar

CONTRAST: Use words like
• differ, whereas, but, unlike