

# Once Upon a Time...



Level:

Intermediate - Advanced



Objectives:

The student will get to know several folk tales from the target language's culture and create their own tale tales



Timing

30-45 mins



Prep/

Materials:

Prepare at least two folk tales with a lot of similar points, like structure, characters, or magic; you can find children's picture book of the tale (optional)



Breakdown:

1. If it is convenient, ask your student to sit on the floor with you, like they're at a campfire, and tell them one of the folk tales you've prepared. For example, tell a classic tale involving an animal character that is always getting into trouble, making his friends pay for the trouble and then always finding a way out of that trouble. A picture book helps in telling the tale. No matter the subject matter, tell the tale as dramatically as you can.

\*To create the effect of a campfire during a virtual lesson, you can share your screen with a video of a campfire with crackling fire sounds. You can also have the student dim the lights in the room. If you can find the online picture book for the tale you are going to tell, this might be helpful to share with the student as well.

2. Tell a second tale that shares characteristics with the first: the animal character, the trouble, the friends, the resolution of the problem.
3. Ask the student to outline the basic concepts found in both of your tales. Have the student copy this outline of general concepts: characters, situation, type of conflict, resolution of conflict.

\*For virtual lessons, you can use an online platform for creating notes, like a Google Doc or Google Keep, or Microsoft OneNote. You can take notes by yourself while the student is trying to outline the general concepts (for lower level students) or have the student take their notes themselves (for higher level students).

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**4. Have your student create a folk tale of their own. It can be about anything ranging from a Greek tragedy to the shenanigans of Br'er Rabbit but should be based in the target language culture.**

\* This could be given as a home assignment or you can schedule 15 minutes once a week to work on the tale during your sessions (especially for a child or a teenager).

\* For virtual lessons, you can continue "writing" the story using the same online platform. If you save the initial notes with the outline, this will be really helpful when the student is creating their own story.



**Breakdown:**

**5. When the story is complete, have them tell their folk tale at the campfire, just like before. Let them know that it is okay to make mistakes, tell a flat story or lose their train of thought while telling the tale in these sessions—that's how you practice!**

**6. The preparation of both the tale and the story-telling should have minimal writing involved. This works best when the student has just a few notes to remember the basics and they can improvise the details as they go to practice their spontaneous speech & narration!**