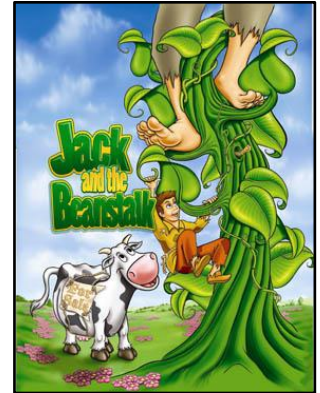


Children of Early Appalachia

Folktales

Do you know what *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Jack and the Bean Tree* have in common? One is an English fairy tale, and the other is a folktale, but they are the same story told in different ways.

Remember the fairy tale about the three little pigs and the big bad wolf? The folktale version is about three shoats (little pigs) named Jack, Will, and Tom, and a clever old red fox.



That's what folktales are: stories handed down from generation to generation and told in different versions, depending on where you live and where your ancestors came from.

Folktales are *always* told, never read. They are rarely told the same way twice, even by the same storyteller. And storytellers sometimes make short tales into very long ones simply by adding to them as they tell them.

Questions and Activities

1. What kind of tale is *Jack and the Beanstalk*?
2. Do storytellers ever read their folktales?
3. How do folktales differ from stories about the Bionic Man, Spiderman, and the Incredible Hulk?
4. Listen to the folktale *Sop Tale* recited by Jerry Harmon on: <http://jerryharmon.com/stories/> .
5. Do you have any family members or friends who like to tell stories that were told to her/him when (s)he was young? Listen to some stories and share them with others.

From: An Appalachian Studies Teacher's Manual

Page originally written by June M. Boone