

Lesson Topic: Storytelling

Summary: Students will watch a video about a local folktale called the *Wampus Cat*. After hearing the story students will create an art illustration of the story, create their own fable and collect a family story to share.

NC Curriculum Standard link: 2nd Grade: RL.2.2

3rd Grade: RL3.2

4th Grade: 4.C.1.2, W.4.3, SL.4.4

5th Grades: 5.C.1.4

References: Story Arts Online, <http://storyarts.org/index.html>

Vocabulary:

- **Fable:** a short story, typically with animals as characters, a lesson or moral is taught and is sometimes stated at the end of the story.
- **Catawampus:** an imaginary fierce wild animal or could also mean askew or awry.
- **Storytelling:** Storytelling is the interactive art of using words and actions to reveal the elements and images of a story while encouraging the listener's imagination.

Materials list for project:

- Device to watch Cradle Video Series: The Wampus Cat
- Paper and writing utensils
- Optional: colored pencils, paints, or markers for art project and , a voice recording device for interview.

Three Activities to choose from: do one or all three!

1. **The Wampus Cat Art Project**
2. **Creating A Personal Fable**
3. **Collecting A Family Story**

Watch Cradle Video Series : [The Wampus Cat](#)

You can find this link on the Cradle's website, <https://cradleofforestry.com/video-series/>

1. How-to instructions for project: The Wampus Cat Art Project

Procedure-

- Watch the Wampus Cat Video
- Draw, paint, or illustrate your favorite part of the story.
- Share with your teachers or a trusted adult. See if you can retell the story to them.
- The Cradle of Forestry would love if you shared a picture of your artistic creation! Send photos to cradleprograms@gofindoutdoors.org

2. How-to instructions for project: Creating A Personal Fable

A **Fable** is a short story, typically with animals as characters, a lesson or moral is taught and is sometimes stated at the end of the story.

Procedure-

- Think about someone in your life you would like to create a fable about, this can be your mom, brother, or even yourself. Assign animal characters to represent this person and anyone else in the fable.
- Think of a moral you would like to cover in your fable. This could be highlighting good or bad behavior, telling the truth, treating others as you would like to be treated, and being patient to name a few.
- Create a fable starring those animal characters and your moral.
- Read your fable to your teacher or a trusted adult.
- If you want to take the learning further, illustrate your fable.

3. How-to instructions for project: Collecting A Family Story

What are Family Stories?

Family stories are tales about people, places, and events related to the members of our immediate family or their ancestors. Family stories casually chatted about at the dinner table, or told again and again at family gatherings can resemble great epics or classic tales. “The memorable stories of our lives and of others in our family take on special importance because they are true, even if everyone tells different versions of the same event. These tales are family heirlooms held in the heart not the hand. They are a gift to each generation that preserves them by remembering them and passing them on.” From Story Arts Online

Procedure-

- Pick a family member to interview. It is best if you choose someone that is your elder (older than you). When choosing this family member, think if there is a story you have heard before from them that you want to collect or you know there is something in their past that interests you and you

- want to learn more about it. Such as their job, how they met their spouse, they fought in a war or grew up in another country.
- Contact that family member and tell them what you want to do. You want to listen and record a story of them. Let them know the topic ahead of time so they can be prepared. Set a time to meet or talk over the phone.
 - Make a list of potential questions you can ask related to the story topic. You may not need these questions but they are good to have prepared. Questions can help your storyteller go in more detail within the story and keep them focused.
 - When it's time to hear the story, you may want to record it with a phone or other audio recorder and take notes. But most of all you want to be a gracious and courteous listener. Let your storyteller do most of the talking. Some people may need some prompts, like the questions you prepared earlier to help them tell their story.

Here are some interview question ideas:

Interview questions about Places to Remember:

- Can you describe the house in which you lived when you were a child?
- Where was your favorite place to visit when you were a child?
- Where did you go to school? What was in the classrooms?

Interview questions about People to Remember:

- Who lived in your house with you as a child?
- How many brothers or sisters lived there?
- Can you describe your father or mother as you remember looking at them when you were small?
- Any relatives remembered? Grandparents or Aunts and Uncles?
- Who was the best cook in the family?

Interview questions about Life Events:

- Immigration: When did the first family member come to America? Where did they come from? How did they get here? Are any family members still abroad?
- Courtship: How did you meet your spouse? How long did you know each other before you were married? Can you describe your wedding?
- Work: How did you earn a living when you were young? What was your first job?
- Holidays: What were your favorite holidays? Did you have special holiday customs or foods?
- Vacations: Did you ever go on a vacation? Where? Who went with you? What did you do for fun?
- Births: Can you describe the birth of your son or daughter? How did you choose his or her name?
- Daily Life: How did you travel from place to place? Did your family have a car? What were your favorite pastimes? How did your children behave?

Interview questions about Objects:

- Photos: Where was the picture taken? Who took the picture? Why were the people in the photo gathered? How are they related? Why were they together at this moment? What were they doing?