



Name _____

Date _____

Media-Rich Lesson Plan #2: The Ballad of Rob Wrong "How Tall is Your Tale?" **ANSWER KEY**

Please circle the story which your group has been assigned.

Group 1: Pecos Bill Finds a Hard Outfit

Group 2: Pecos Bill Rides a Tornado

Group 3: Pecos Bill and Slue-Foot Sue

Each student in your class will be reading one of the stories listed below.

Log on to the Pecos Bill Tall Tales page of the American Folklore Web site at <http://www.americanfolklore.net/pecosbill.html>. Read your assigned story and assess the characteristics that make it a tall tale.

1) Tall tales feature characters with super-human strengths or abilities. List the characters in your story with super-human abilities, as well as what those abilities are.

Group 1: Pecos Bill Finds a Hard Outfit

Pecos Bill carries first his saddle and then a rattlesnake. He lets the rattlesnake "get a few jabs" on him, and then he "whipped the tarnation" out of a cougar. Bill then saddles up the cougar and rides it, encouraging it with the rattlesnake. Bill also wipes his mouth with a prickly pear.

Group 2: Pecos Bill Rides a Tornado

Pecos Bill rides on the back of a tornado from Kansas to California.

Group 3: Pecos Bill and Slue-Foot Sue

Slue-Foot Sue rides catfish down the river and shoots at the clouds, making patterns in them. Sue is thrown up into the clouds by Pecos Bill's horse.

2) Tall tales feature impossible or silly plotlines. What happens in your story that is impossible or silly?

Group 1: Pecos Bill Finds a Hard Outfit

The trapper directs Bill to an outfit where the men bite nails in half for fun. When Bill beats the cougar, the hair flies everywhere, until it blocks out the sun. The jackrabbits think it's night, so they all go to bed. The cougar ends up like a kitten and licks Bill's hand. Bill also rides the cougar like a horse.

Group 2: Pecos Bill Rides a Tornado

Pecos Bill rides a tornado. He jabs it with his spurs. The tornado gets angrier and angrier, and ties rivers into knots. When Bill falls off the tornado, he hits the ground so hard it sinks below sea level, and becomes Death Valley.

Group 3: Pecos Bill and Slue-Foot Sue

Slue-Foot Sue bounces into the sky, and hits her head on the moon. She bounces into the sky for three days and four nights, and Pecos Bill ends up shooting her.

3) Tall tales feature wildly exaggerated events. What real-life events MAY have provided the basis for your story? **Please note, student answers may vary.

Group 1: Pecos Bill Finds a Hard Outfit

A cowboy MAY have had an encounter with a rattlesnake and a cougar. There MAY have been some

outfits of very tuff men. There MAY also have been an eclipse at some point that blocked out the sun.

Group 2: Pecos Bill Rides a Tornado

Cowboys MAY have experienced tornados. Cowboys may have been extremely skilled at riding wild horses. Cowboys MAY have ridden from Kansas to California. And there really is a Death Valley in California that is below sea level.

Group 3: Pecos Bill and Slue-Foot Sue

A cowboy MAY have married a woman in a large hoopskirt. There MAY have been women who were excellent shots. A woman MAY have been thrown from her husband's horse. A cowboy MAY have shot his wife.

4) Please create a short (2-3 sentence) summary of your story in the space below. Sample summaries include:

Group 1: Pecos Bill Finds a Hard Outfit

Pecos Bill is looking for a new outfit. Along the way, he meets a rattlesnake and a cougar. He tames both animals, and rides the cougar into camp, where he is proclaimed to be the new leader.

Group 2: Pecos Bill Rides a Tornado

Pecos Bill is known for his ability to ride anything, and one day he gets on a tornado's back. The tornado tries and tries to throw him, and works its way from Kansas to California. When Bill falls off the tornado, he creates Death Valley.

Group 3: Pecos Bill and Slue-Foot Sue

Pecos Bill meets Slue-Foot Sue and falls in love with her. She tries to ride his horse, but is thrown from it into the sky. Her hoop skirt causes her to bounce for three days and four nights, and Pecos Bill has to shoot her.