Write Your Own Folktale!

Now that you've learned a little bit about folktales – their purpose, their prevalence, and their influence – let's see how creative you can be!

Your stores must be typed, double-spaced, 12 size Sans Serif font, and a minimum of 2 pages. Please do NOT exceed 5 pages (if you're on a roll, run with it, but it won't earn you extra credit).

Here is a guide to help you write a folktale:

1. **Create your main character.** Describe how your character looks. Is he or she tall or short, animal or human? Does he or she have big feet? A small head? Is s/he young or old? You can draw your character on a piece of paper to help you imagine him or her. Then, once you have a clear picture of your character, think about his or her personality. Is s/he gentle, brave, dumb, clever, generous, greedy? What are the things your character is known for? How will his or her personality affect your folktale?

2. **Decide what message you want your folktale to give your reader.** Folktales often explain a phenomenon in the world, or tell a lesson about human nature. For example, my folktale "Half-Chicken" explains how weather vanes first came to be — but it also tells the reader a message about how helping others will make those others want to help you. As you begin planning your folktale, think about what moral or lesson you want your story to tell. The way your plot develops will depend on this message.

3. **Plan your plot.** A good story will need:
   - an interesting and engaging beginning
   - a conflict or moment of tension — a question to be answered, or something that needs to be resolved
   - an ending that is satisfying because the conflict has been resolved or the question has been answered

4. **Edit/Revise.** Writing is a process! If your story is filled with grammatical errors and sentence fragments, your story’s message could get convoluted and misconstrued.

   *The message of the story is important — but it's also critical that you make that message part of a good story!*

Good luck and let your imaginations run wild!