

Folklore : Legend Characteristics

Long Middle School Webquests

The characteristics of a legend are:

- They are stories that have been handed down for generations.
- They are based on the life of a real person or event. Example: Robin Hood, King Arthur, John Henry, Mulan.
- Legends have more historical truth and less fiction than other types of Folk Literature.
- Legends were often used to teach cultural values.

Davy Crockett and the Frozen Dawn

retold by
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One winter, it was so cold that the dawn froze solid. The sun got caught between two ice blocks, and the earth iced up so much that it couldn't turn. The first rays of sunlight froze halfway over the mountain tops. They looked like yellow icicles dripping towards the ground.

Now Davy Crockett was headed home after a successful night hunting when the dawn froze up so solid. Being a smart man, he knew he had to do something quick or the earth was a goner. He had a freshly killed bear on his back, so he whipped it off, climbed right up on those rays of sunlight and began beating the hot bear carcass against the ice blocks which were squashing the sun. Soon a gush of hot oil burst out of the bear and it melted the ice. Davy gave the sun a good hard kick to get it started, and the sun's heat unfroze the earth and started it spinning again. So Davy lit his pipe on the sun, shouldered the bear, slid himself down the sun rays before they melted and took a bit of sunrise home in his pocket.

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