First look at folktales from the Native American communities from our area.  To support those lessons, after first discussing the definition of a folktale,  we’ll read a simple Native American folktale and they will write a one-sentence summary for each of its paragraphs.

Next, they’ll find a folktale from their own cultural tradition and do the same process (ending up with about ten sentences or so).  They can search online or go directly to [A Beginning List Of The Best Folklore & Myth Sites](http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2011/08/21/a-beginning-list-of-the-best-folklore-myth-sites/) to find one (if you scroll towards the bottom, you can find them divided by cultural tradition).

Then, they will turn those sentences into online books with [Adobe Spark](https://spark.adobe.com/about/video?gclid=Cj0KCQjwyoHlBRCNARIsAFjKJ6DE5z4DBXGliOuqbSJaJZybihist7RMWudH6BHA5Cct7pnvMdE-_NIaAg04EALw_wcB&mv=search&ef_id=Cj0KCQjwyoHlBRCNARIsAFjKJ6DE5z4DBXGliOuqbSJaJZybihist7RMWudH6BHA5Cct7pnvMdE-_NIaAg04EALw_wcB:G:s&s_kwcid=AL!3085!3!296235768923!b!!g!!adobe%20spark) (they used that tool before [to create videos of odes](http://www.sacschoolblogs.org/larryferlazzo/2019/02/18/ode-videos/#comments) they had written).

After those are complete and shown to the class, it will be time for them to write their own!

ArtsEdge at the Kennedy Center has a nice [“Writing Folktales” lesson](http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/educators/lessons/grade-6-8/Writing_Folktales#Instruction), including several handouts.  I won’t use them all, but will introduce the handouts in this sequence ([NOTE: they’ve just moved all their folktale handouts to a new site](https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/lessons-and-activities/lessons/6-8/writing-folktales/))

[Types of Folktales](http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/~/media/ArtsEdge/LessonPrintables/grade-6-8/writing_folktales_types_of_folktales.ashx)

[Qualities of Folktales](http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/~/media/ArtsEdge/LessonPrintables/grade-6-8/writing_folktales_qualities_of_folktales.ashx)

The second page of this handout, called [Outline For Writing A Story](http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/~/media/ArtsEdge/LessonPrintables/grade-6-8/writing_folktales_the_writing_process.ashx).

Then, I’ll give them a couple of graphic organizers to choose from (if they want to use them to plan their folktale):

[Fables and Folk Tales Graphic Organizer](https://elementarylibrarian.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Fable-Folk-Tale-Graphic-Organizer.pdf)

[Folktale Graphic Organizer](https://betterlesson.com/lesson/resource/2292845/folktale-graphic-organizer-pdf)

Depending on how long all this takes, students will either use Adobe Spark to turn their folktales into videos or make them into paper “books” to share physically and verbally with their classmates.

As usual, this plan will be modified based on what happens in class, and I’m very open to hearing from readers about how to make it better (this blog post is not meant to imply that I’ve put an enormous amount of thought into it!).  I’ll share the end results, including student videos (included with permission).

Addendum: Check out [Video: Student Folktale](http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2019/04/20/video-student-folktale/).