

Tall Tales and Heroes

Script and Song Lyrics

Begin class lines: 3N

Person 1: Ladies and Gentlemen! Welcome to the (year) performance of “Tall Tales and Heroes”!
(Announcer) We just want you to know, everything we tell you....

Choir: (wag finger, shake head) Uh uh uh!

Announcer: ...almost everything we tell you is absolutely...

Choir: (as before) Uh uh uh!

Announcer: ...almost absolutely true! So... Sit back!...

Choir: *Sit back!*

Announcer: ...Relax!...

Choir: *Relax!*

Everyone: *And enjoy the show!*

(Cue music “A Lot of Tall Tales”)

A Lot of Tall Tales

We’re gonna tell, we’re gonna tell a lot of tall tales. Some you may find hard to conceive.
But we hope you recognize, in all tales, a kernel of truth to believe.

We’re gonna tell___you all about a lot of heroes, some who go way back in history.
But now we’re confessing, we will keep you guessing, are they real___? Are they real___?
Are they real, or just a fantasy?

Doodle-do-do, to-do; Doodle-do-do, to-do; Doodle-do-do, to-do Do.
Doodle-do-do, to-do; Doodle-do-do, to-do; Doodle-do-do, to-do Do.
Doodle-do-do, to-do; Doodle-do-do, to-do; Doodle-do-do, to-do Do.

******(pause music for lines)******

(During music "A Lot of Tall Tales")

Person 2: Why do people tell tall tales?

Person 3: Because they're fun and they make us laugh at our problems.

Person 4: And the bigger the problem, the bigger the story.

Person 5: Like the weather. People are always telling tall tales about the weather.

Person 6: Like last summer—remember how wet it was?...

Choir: How wet was it?

Person 6: ...It rained so hard, folks had to jump in the river to keep from drowning!

All sing: We're gonna tell, we're gonna tell a lot of tall tales.
Some you may find hard to conceive_____.

Person 7: Did you know that Johnny Appleseed was the skinniest man alive?...

Choir: How skinny was he?

Person 7: He was so skinny, he had to stand in one place three times to make a shadow!

All sing: But we hope you recognize, in all tales, a kernel of truth to believe_____.

Person 8: Do you remember how hot it was in the summer of 1778?...

Choir: How hot was it?

Person 8: It was so hot, chickens were laying hard-boiled eggs!

All sing: We're gonna tell___you all about a lot of heroes___, some who go way back in history.
But now we're confessing, we will keep you guessing, are they real___? Are they real___?
Are they real? Just you wait and see_____!

(end music)

Person 9: What does that mean—“a kernel of truth to believe”?

Person 10: It means that a lot of tall tales started out being true.

Person 11: And the more people told them, the “truer” they got.

Person 12: And the heroes?

Person 13: Same thing. The more people talked about heroes, the bigger they got.

Person 14: Were they real people?

Person 15: Most of them were. But I’m not going to tell you which ones!

(cue music “A Lot of Tall Tales – Reprise”)

Person 16: Then how will I know?!

A Lot of Tall Tales – Reprise

But now we’re confessing, we will keep you guessing, are they real___? Are they real___?

Are they real_, well_, just_ you_ wait___ and___ see_____!

Just you wait and see___!

(end music)

Person 17: Speaking of problems: one of our biggest problems was back in 1776.

Person 18: We were starting a new country and fighting a war.

Person 19: And one of our heroes was being born!

All boys: Oh boy! Who was he?!

Person 20: He was a HER!

All girls: Yeah!!

Person 21: As we were saying, Molly Pitcher and the United States were born about the same time.

Person 22: Molly Pitcher? Is that her real name?

Person 23: No, the American soldiers gave her that nickname.

Person 24: She carried water to them in her pitcher as they marched by her home.

Person 25: She also helped fight in a battle when the soldiers were too exhausted to continue.

Person 26: George Washington was impressed and gave her an award!

(cue music "The Patriotic Maid")

End class lines 3N--Being class lines 3B

The Patriotic Maid

Young Molly Pitcher was a maid, who fought for freedom unafraid.
She carried water, fired a gun, and won the praise of Washington.

Person 1: I am very proud to present you with this Medal of Honor for bravery and
(Washington) compassion. (Step back and salute) Molly Pitcher, you will go down in history as
a hero, or my name isn't George Father-Of-His-Country Washington!

Young Molly Pitcher was a maid, who fought for freedom unafraid.
She carried water, fired a gun, and won the praise of Washington.
She carried water, fired a gun, and won the praise of Wa__shing__ton_____.

(end music)

(cue music "Theme Signature – Country Style")

Theme Signature – Country Style (Davey Crockett)

We're gonna tell___ about a family of heroes. The Crocketts_ of Ten_nes__see!

(end music)

Person 2: Yes sir, Davey Crockett could grin a bear right out of a tree!

Person 3: He learned that from his Pa.

Person 4: Yup! His Pa could grin a hailstorm into sunshine.

Person 5: And his Ma could jump backward over a fence when she was 85!

Person 6: And his wife could laugh the bark right off a tree.

Person 7: They were a rip-snorting family alright.

Person 8: That's because they had a motto to live by. "Be sure you're right, and then go ahead".

(cue music: "Be Sure You're Right")

Person 9: And that's what they always did.

Be Sure You're Right

Davey Crockett was a hero. Lived in stories that we know.
He won a place, a place in history___, with this philosophy:

Chorus: Be sure you're right___, and then go ahead.
Be sure you're right___, then do it.
Get every fact__ before you act.
And then get right___ to it!

Every member of his family___, was exceptionally handy.
And they were heroes, ev-ery one___, because they got things done!

(Chorus)

When you have to solve a problem, here's a way to get the job done!
You just remember Davey Crockett's line, and you'll come out just fine!

(Chorus)

Get to it!

(end music)

Person 10: Boy, Davey Crockett and his family sure were big heroes.

Person 11: (Unimpressed) Yeah...but Johnny Appleseed was better.

Person 12: (Also unimpressed) Johnny Appleseed? What did he do?

Person 13: Planted apple trees.

Person 14: So what? Big deal.

Person 15: Hey, it was a big deal! Apples are important.

Person 16: Prove it!

Person 17: We can. (To choir) Ahem... What are the three most important things to an American?

Choir (on cue): The Flag! . . . Mom! . . . and Apple Pie!

(cue music: "As American as Apple Pie")

As American As Apple Pie

3Y solo: *Now Chapman was this fellow's name, but they called him "Appleseed,"
Because he planted apple trees, a very noble deed.*

All: Chorus: Johnny Appleseed, he was quite a guy!
A hero guaranteed. As American...as apple pie!

3B solo: *He never charged the folks a dime. He was too free for that.
He lived outdoors and cooked his meals, right in his saucepan hat!*

All: (Chorus)

3N solo: *He planted trees from coast to coast, wherever he would go.
And then he gave them loving care, so every tree would grow!*

All: (Chorus)

La . . . la la la la la . . . La . . . la la la la . . . la . . .
La . . . la la la la la la, as American. . . as apple pie!

La . . . la la la la la . . . La . . . la la la la . . . la . . .
La . . . la la la la la la, as American. . . as apple pie!

(end music)

Person 18: At this time, Texas really started to grow.

Person 19: Lots of new things came along, like the Pony Express.

Person 20: And Pony Express Riders like Calamity Jane.

Person 21: Now there was an American hero if we ever had one!

Person 22: Some folks say Jane could ride horses before she could walk . . .

Person 23: And do fancy shooting before she could talk.

(Cue music: "Calamity Jane")

Calamity Jane

Girls: I used to be "Plain Jane". I used to be "Plain Jane".
I used to be "Plain Jane". But now that's all been changed!

Chorus: They call me "Calamity". They call me "Calamity".
They call me "Calamity". And I sure earned that name!

You ought to see me ride now! You ought to see me rope now!
You ought to see me shoot now! I'm the best of them all!

(Chorus)

Boys: (Chorus)

All: Yeah she/I___ sure___ earned___ that___ name___!

Girls: *My name is Calamity Jane . . . and don't you ever forget it!*

(end music)

Person 24: About 1861, the telegraph replaced the Pony Express.

Person 25: And pretty soon trains replaced stagecoaches.

End class lines 3B—begin class lines 3Y

Person 1: In fact, our next hero worked for the railroad in West Virginia.

Person 2: That's right! John Henry, the steel-driving man.

Choir: What's that mean?

Person 3: Back in the 1870's, men dug tunnels by hand.

Choir: Even through mountains?

Person 4: Yes. One man held a steel spike against the mountain.

Person 5: Then another man hit the spike with a hammer.

Person 6: And that's how men made tunnels for railroads.

Person 7: Now John Henry could drive steel faster than any other man.

Choir: How fast could he go?

Person 8: He could outdrive 20 men and never get tired. So there was a competition between John Henry and a machine!

(cue music: "Beat the Machine")

Beat the Machine

3N solo: *The word went out, there was gonna be a race.
And ev'rybody came for to get a looking place.*

All: Chorus: John Henry was a man; John Henry long and lean.
John Henry was the man who could . . . beat the machine.

3N solo: *His twenty-pound hammer put him in control.
Said: "I feel pride hamm'rin' in my soul!"*

All: (Chorus)

3B solo: *Well the whistle blew and the race began
'Tween the new steam drill and the steel-drivin' man.*

All: (Chorus)

3B solo: *They were neck and neck in the noonday sun;
But the man just smiled, he was having fun!*

All: (Chorus)

3Y solo: *Then he pulled ahead, he was gaining ground,
And a cheer went up from the people all around.*

*But the race went on for many an hour.
And the steam drill ran on its hot steam pow'r.*

All: (Chorus)

3Y solo: *Now John was tired, you could see it in his face.
But he wouldn't give up, and he wouldn't slow his pace.*

All: (Chorus) (quiet)

3N solo: *Well the boss called "time" at the setting sun.
And the word went out:*

All: *John Henry won!
Yea.....!*

(slow) John Henry was a man, John Henry long and lean.
John Henry was a man who could . . . beat_ the_ ma_chine!

(end music)

Person 9: We saved the best-known hero until last.

(cue music: "Theme Signature—Paul Bunyon")

Theme Signature—Paul Bunyon

We're gonna tell ___ you all about another hero ___!
Paul Bunyon!

(end music)

Person 10: Now everyone knows Paul Bunyan was born in Maine.

Person 11: And that Paul had a giant blue ox named Babe.

Person 12: And that Paul was the greatest lumberjack in the world.

Person 13: And that Paul could cut down 100 trees at one time!

Person 14: And that Paul's bookkeeper was called Johnny Inkslinger.

Person 15: And that Paul logged all the trees out of North Dakota.

Person 16: And that Paul . . .

Person 17: Wait a minute! How did you find out all that stuff about Paul Bunyan?!

Choir: They looked it up!

Person 18: Well, I know about lumberjacks . . .

Boys: (stepping forward) Did someone call us?

(cue music: "Lumberjacks Love Flapjacks")

Lumberjacks Love Flapjacks

Boys: Lumberjacks are tough. (uhh) Strong and unafraid. (uhh)
No matter what, we always persevere!
Whether climbing trees, (uhh) or working on the ground, (uhh)
We do our job, let nothing interfere.

But . . . We all get misty and tearful when we see the thing we all crave, some flapjacks!
It's sure no riddle that, hot off the griddle, each man is a slave . . . to flapjacks!
Just give us a stack! Be sure there's no lack,
Of those wonderful, wonderful, marvelous, marvelous cakes!

Girls: . . . *I can see them now . . . all covered with butter . . . and with maple syrup dripping down the sides!*

Boys: *Oooo . . . I can't stand it!*

We will be true to, there's nothing we won't do, if we can just have . . . some flapjacks!
Mmm__, flapjacks! Mmm__, flapjacks!

Girls: Alright you guys . . . back to work, now!

Boys: Lumberjacks are rough. (uhh) We're a scruffy lot. (uhh)
No one would ever call us gentlemen!
We work and then we play, (uhh) with equal loyalty. (uhh)
And never start a fight that we don't win!

But . . . We all get misty and tearful when we see the thing we all crave, some flapjacks!
It's sure no riddle that, hot off the griddle, each man is a slave . . . to flapjacks!
Just give us a stack! Be sure there's no lack,
Of those wonderful, wonderful, marvelous, marvelous cakes!

Girls: . . . *With plump, juicy sausages . . . and whipped cream . . . and strawberries on top!*

Boys: *Oooo . . . I can't stand it!*

We will be true to, there's nothing we won't do, if we can just have . . . some flapjacks! Mmm____
We will be true to, there's nothing we won't do, if we can just have . . . some flapjacks! Mmm____
Flapjacks! Mmm____. We want some flapjacks!

(end music)

(cue music: "A Lot of Tall Tales—Reprise")

A Lot of Tall Tales—Reprise

You've heard us tell . . . , you've heard us tell a lot of tall__ tales____,
Some you may have found hard to conceive;
But we hope you recognized__, in all tales__,
A kernel of truth to believe.
You've heard us tell . . . , you all about a lot of heroes____,
Some who go way back in history____.
But now we're confessing, we sure kept you guessing.
Were they real____? Were they real____?
Were they real or just a fan__ta__sy____?

(end music)

Person 19: It's too bad we don't have heroes anymore.

Person 20: Don't you remember what we said at the beginning of the show?

Person 21: Well, sort of....something about heroes solving problems?

Person 22: That's right. So you see, as long as we have problems . . .

Choir: We'll always have heroes!

(cue music: "Finale: Anyone Can Be a Hero")

Finale: Anyone Can Be A Hero

All: Heroes come in every color, shape, and size.
Some are big and brave, and some are very wise.
They may be tall or short, or young or eighty-three,
But every hero you find, is just like you and me.

Anyone can be a hero____!
Anyone can be a hero____!

3B solo: *Just like Molly Pitcher.*
3B solo: *Just like Davy Crockett.*

All: Heroes are important 'cause they make us proud.
They're the kind of folks who stand out in a crowd.
Now you may be surprised, the heroes that you see,
But every hero you will find, is just like you and me.

Anyone can be a hero____!
Anyone can be a hero____!
Anyone can be a hero____!
Anyone can be a hero____!
Anyone can be a hero____!
Anyone can be a hero____!

3B solo: *Just like Johnny Appleseed.*
3Y solo: *Just like John Henry.*
3Y solo: *Just like Calamity Jane.*
3Y solo: *Just like Paul Bunyon.*
3N solo: *Just like*
3N solo: *Just like*

All: Like you____! And you____! And me____!
Anyone can be a hero!