TALL TALES
SCRIPT WORKSHEET

Name___________________Class_________________

Tall Tales: a folktale that uses outrageous exaggeration (hyperbole) to describe its characters and action.

In your script, include a narrator and at least two tall tale characters or supporting characters. You may also make up a tall tale character of your own. (Minimum – 3 characters/ Maximum – 5 characters)

Circle the characters you are going to use in your script.

Paul Bunyan – giant lumberjack of the north woods (Michigan, Minnesota, North/South Dakota)
Babe the Blue Ox – giant ox Paul found in the snow
Cream puff Patty or Sourdough Sam – camp cooks

Pecos Bill – King of the Cowboys (Texas or other Southwestern states)
Widowmaker – Pecos Bill’s horse
Slue-Foot Sue – Bill’s wife who rode a giant catfish down the Rio Grande

Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind – incredibly strong, lightning flash smile, loud booming voice. (Kentucky and Tennessee)
Davy Crockett – married to Sally Ann

Johnny Appleseed – backwoodsman who planted apple orchards in the Midwest (Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana)
He could talk to animals and would not hunt them, champion tree-chopper, tough skin,

Annie Oakley – sharpshooter and star of Buffalo Bill Cody’s Wild West Show. Her nickname was “Little Sure Shot”.

Davy Crockett – frontiersman, hunter and Congressman of Tennessee. Unusually strong, combed his hair with rake, could talk to animals, great speech maker.
Sally Sugartree – Davy’s wife
Death Hug - Davy’s pet bear that he rode like a horse

Thunder Rose – has the power of thunder and lightning and can make things out of iron
Tater – her pet bull
Cole – a thunderbolt made of scrap iron

Swamp Angel - giant woman who is incredibly strong, can snore down trees, drink lakes dry and lasso tornadoes.
Thuddering Tarnation: giant bear

John Henry – steel driving man who was able to beat a machine tunneling through a mountain in West Virginia. Very tall and strong. Uses a large hammer.
Tall tales stories are about:
- Larger than life characters and their incredible abilities.
- Give explanations of how things in nature came to be formed. (Grand Canyon, Mississippi River, Great Lakes, Mountains)

Tall tales use:
- Expressive, colorful language.

  My heart’s pounding like a buffalo stampede!
  Well, burn my britches if I am not Davy Crockett to the very bone!

- Hyperbole or extreme exaggeration.

  The skillet was so big that greasing it required three men to skate on it with slabs of bacon tied to their feet.

- Similes - where two things are compared to describe something in a different or funny way.

  Tarnation snored louder than a rockslide, while Angel snored like a locomotive in a thunderstorm.

Tips for writing scripts

- Include a cast of characters.
- Include the setting.
- Always include the name of the character before the dialogue followed by a colon and then add a space between each line.

  Narrator:  This is the story of Pecos Bill, King of the Cowboys.

  Pecos Bill:  Howdy, folks!

- Use stage directions to show emotion or action. Stage directions are always placed in parentheses and usually written in italics.

  Narrator:  (proudly to the audience, in a loud voice) That’s me! The greatest lumberjack there ever was!