

KANSAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

WHAT IS A TALL TALE ?

- A tall tale is a story based on a fact, or facts, and filled with unbelievable elements told as if they were true and factual. This competition stresses originality and not a rehash of a time worn joke expounded upon.
- A tall tale is a unique form of American Story Telling in which the narrator usually has a part in the story.
- A tall tale is usually humorous and good natured with a fact so exaggerated it consumes the story.
- A tall tale may contain a larger than life character with a specific task or a problem to solve in a humorous or outrageous way.
- A tall tale uses exaggerated detail describing things larger than they really are.
- A tall tale may include characters using everyday language, who are based on real people or a composite of people.
- A tall tale has just enough truth to make a good story and to incite the imagination to improve on actual happenings. Improving on actual happenings rather than outright lying, is the distinguishing feature of a tall tale.