**Folk Literature Writing Assignment**

**Assignment:** Write a 1-2 page folk story.

**Setting:** Setting includes *time and space*. You will write a myth or a folk tale that captures the local customs of a region or culture that interests you. (Please avoid ancient Greece and Rome.) Research the country of your choice and take notes about details like language, food, local traditions, climate, cultural values, the geography of the area, etc. Craft a story that perhaps explains the origin of the society (myth), the existence of a landform in the country (myth), explains a historical character, cultural value or tradition and incorporates magic (folktale). Include the characteristics of folk literature in your story.

**Characters**: How many characters do you need for your story? What is your purpose for each character? Do you need one character to be the “greedy one” and the other character to show her the error of her ways? Will your characters be human? You could even use personification and make *time* a character.

**Plot:** How will your series of events (plot) help the reader learn a lesson? What conflict will arise and how will it be solved?

**Universal Theme**: Choose a universal theme that you would like to explore. Remember, a **universal theme** is a message about life that people of most backgrounds would understand. An example of a universal theme is: you should think before you act. Another is: greed can lead to your downfall. Here’s another: love conquers all. Aw!

List a few more themes that you might like to explore on a separate piece of paper. Circle the theme that you would most like to incorporate into your story. Put a star next to your second choice. Sketch out some ideas for how your story might play out. If you’re having trouble coming up with ideas, you might want to move on to your second option.

Timeline