Lesson 5 ~ Core Content Objectives

The students will:

- Demonstrate familiarity with the tall tale “Paul Bunyan”
- Identify the characters, plot, and setting of “Paul Bunyan”
- Identify the tall tale elements in “Paul Bunyan”
- Identify the meanings of new vocabulary words
Admiration (noun)

A feeling of deep respect and liking

Example: Liz had a great deal of admiration for her younger brother, who always tried his best.
Colossal (adjective)

Unbelievably large or great

Example: On Jim’s family trip across the United States, they stopped to drive up Pike’s Peak, a colossal mountain in Colorado.
Frontier (noun)

The unsettled part of the American West

Example: Lewis and Clark explored the frontier with a skilled group of woodsmen.
Inseparable  (adjective)

Seemingly always together; not able to be separated

*Example:* The two brothers were inseparable during the summer.
The next several read alouds you will hear will be tall tales. Tall tales are a type of folktale. They were first told orally many, many years ago and were later written down. Tall tales are also a type of fiction.

Tall tales are humorous and funny stories. Sometimes they are about real-life heroes of the American frontier during the 1800s. The 1800s were two hundred years ago.

Like fairy tales, American tall tales also have special characteristics ~stories are set in the American West -Frontier setting ~Amazing childhood, adventures ~creation/inventions (natural landmarks like the Grand Canyon) ~humor, exaggerations/larger-than-life

The main character in today’s tall tale is named Paul Bunyan who grew up in Main. Later, Paul’s family decided to move to Minnesota.
Paul Bunyan

Purpose for Listening
The title of this tall tale is “Paul Bunyan,” and the setting for this story is in the American frontier. Remember a tall tale is one type of fiction. Listen carefully for examples of exaggeration.
1. **Literal** What is the title of today’s story?

2. **Evaluative** What kind of special story is “Paul Bunyan”? Is this tall tale fiction or nonfiction?

3. **Inferential** Where in the American frontier does this story take place?

4. **Inferential** How was Paul Bunyan’s childhood amazing?

5. **Literal** What is one amazing adventure Paul Bunyan has in this tall tale?

6. **Evaluative** What are some things in nature the tall tale says Paul Bunyan created? Do you think he really created any of these things?

7. **Evaluative** What is one thing you find humorous or funny about this tall tale?

8. **Evaluative** Name one exaggeration from this tall tale and explain how it is an exaggeration. Name an exaggeration that makes Paul Bunyan seem larger than life?

9. **Evaluative** Think Pair Share: What are some things in this story that probably could happen in real life?
Word Work: **Admiration**

1. In today’s read-aloud you heard, “The other lumberjacks were full of *admiration* for Paul Bunyan.”

2. Say the word *admiration* with me three times.

3. What is the base word/root word of *admiration*?
   ~To *admire* means to look up to; to think highly of

   If you have *admiration* for someone, that means you really like and look up to that person. If you have *admiration* for someone, that means you respect that person and are likely to do what they say. You might even want to be like that person.

4. The other lumberjacks had *admiration* for Paul Bunyan because he was so strong that he could chop down a tree with one swing. The American people have a great deal of *admiration* for the first astronauts who walked on the moon.

5. Do you have *admiration* for anyone? Use the word *admiration* when you tell about it, and answer in complete sentences.

   Echo response: “One person I have *admiration* for is __________.”
Fact or Tall Tale?

Today we will distinguish what could be real and what is purely fiction in the tall tale, “Paul Bunyan.”

Directions: We are going to read eight statements. If the statement is something that could really happen, or is a fact, say Fact. If the statement is something that could not really happen, or is a tall tale exaggeration, say Tall Tale. Listen as we read each sentence. Raise your hand to respond.

1. Lumberjacks cut down trees. Is this a fact or is this a tall tale?
2. Paul Bunyan can cut down a tree with one swing.
3. Paul Bunyan’s snores are like an earthquake.
4. Minnesota had logging camps and sawmills.
5. People cut down trees to make homes.
6. Sourdough Sam cooked pancakes in a pan on top of a forest fire.
7. Paul Bunyan and Babe made the Mississippi River.
8. The Mississippi River runs from Minnesota to New Orleans.
Paul Bunyan

- View YouTube video 17:01
- Walt Disney's "Paul Bunyan" (1958)