

## High School Activities “Swamp Party”

1. Discuss elements of “Swamp Party” reviewing the main literary elements for each of the stories: the setting, plot, characters, theme and central conflict.
2. Folktales have four components: a. They teach a lesson. b. People can learn and understand the community’s customs. c. They convey information about the people who tell them. d. They can change with each retelling because the storyteller breathes a different life into the story. Write a folktale about your culture and include elements in the story about your life from a fictional point of view.
3. Discuss tall tales by exploring who tells them, why students think people tell them, whether students know any themselves, and what examples have they read or heard elsewhere. Extend this lesson by holding a “Liars Contest” in class and see who can tell the biggest whopper in a believable manner!
4. Essay Questions:
  - a. Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf? Being afraid is a common childhood theme. Write an essay explaining your views on whether it is appropriate to use fear tactics in stories to help children develop acceptable behavior patterns. Be sure to include information from your past regarding stories heard when you were younger in your composition. Be clear about your position before beginning.
  - b. Another prevalent theme in Angela’s stories is acceptance. Each character did their best to fit in with mixed results. Write an essay characterizing how each of the characters attempted to fit in and what you would have done instead or give suggestions for achieving a different result.
  - c. Stories often reflect societal conditions and information. Think about the environmental conditions Mr. Gator shares in his story. Are there images, symbols, or landscapes inferred in the story that help you understand Mr. Gator’s environment? Mr. Gator briefly refers to oil refineries and pollutions affecting his lifestyle. Develop the story from the angle of a polluted waterway. Write the story differently to build awareness for the importance of caring for our environment.