



# Malawi

## African Folk Tales

Time Period: About 1 hour  
Kindergarten- Grade 1

### About the lesson

It helps students understand the culture of children in central/southern Africa and Malawi and helps their literacy skills.

### Learning intentions

Students will be taught:

- that they share common interests with children in other parts of the world.
- about literature from another continent.

### Learning outcomes

Students will have learnt:

- To communicate in speaking and writing.
- To listen and/or read and understand.
- To apply what they have read or heard to situations in life.

### Links to National Curriculum subjects

English  
Art  
Humanities (geography)



## Resources

### Stories including:

- The Lion and the Herbalist
- The Rabbit steals the Elephant's Dinner
- The Rabbit grows a Crop of Money
- The Eagle and the Buzzard
- The Friendship of the Tortoise and the Eagle (compare with Aesop's fable)
- Once upon a time in a country somewhere in Africa...
- Trocaire's A Folk Tale from Malawi

### Below is a list of web sources of these and other African literature and folk tales

- [http://www.dmoz.org/Society/Folklore/Literature/Tales/Fairy\\_Tales/World\\_Tales/African/](http://www.dmoz.org/Society/Folklore/Literature/Tales/Fairy_Tales/World_Tales/African/)
- <http://www.umass.edu/rso/african/folktales.html>
- <http://meltingpot.fortunecity.com/navarino/212/drums/drums001-king-of-the-jungle.html>
- <http://www.sacred-texts.com/afr/sbf/>
- <http://www.wildlifeafrica.co.za/africatales.html>
- <http://www.lent.ie/pdf/Lent07JuniorPrimary.pdf> (RE lesson used in Malawi)
- <http://www.africabookcentre.com> This is a source of books on Malawi fiction
- <http://www.librarything.com/tag/Malawi>
- Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales (includes Malawi example)
- The Mean Hyena: A Folktale from Malawi Judy Sierra & Michael Bryant

Also provide illustrations of the places, animals and people in the stories.

As this lesson will be repeated across all ages with different stories the following Lesson Structure gives some indication of how it could be delivered to younger grades.

## Lesson Structure

Approx timings

### Introduction

What do we like about stories – the message, the characters? 10 mins

### Warm up

Introduce the character of the story to be read (photos/illustrations) 5 mins

### Development

Read the story using illustrations where appropriate to aid enjoyment and understanding, questioning students and answering queries. 20 mins  
Try to get across the meaning of the story (if there is one) and if possible relate situation to the lives of students here and in Malawi.

### Vocabulary extension

Some key words could be put on flashcards to learn. Writing skills could be developed with able students using simple exercises. 20 mins  
There could be further activities in drama (role play etc) and art.

### Plenary

Get feedback on whether children enjoyed the story, why (or why not) and what they learned. 5 mins

For older grades the session could be developed to include reading and writing practice, developing creative writing skills and considering the moral behind the story (where appropriate). It may also provide an opportunity to consider what Canadian and European folk tales exist and what part they play in the lives of children today.