

Writer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Modern Day Tall Tale Character Stories

Inspired by Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

**Instructions:** Before writing about your modern day tall tale character, plan your story and its parts on this two-page graphic organizer.

**Who will your modern-day tall tale character be?** (Give name & brief description)

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**What are five personality traits or physical characteristics of your tall tale character?**  
(List only things that you might be able to exaggerate about)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
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**What situation (with a story problem) will your tall tale character find himself/herself in?**  
(break your situation into a "first," "second," and "third", and include any interesting details below)

<p>Briefly describe the situation:</p> <p>First, this will happen...</p> <p>Second, this will happen...</p> <p>Third, this will happen...</p>
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**Create some similes and metaphors you might use in your tall tale:**

My tall tale character's \_\_\_\_\_ is/was like \_\_\_\_\_ because

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My tall tale character's \_\_\_\_\_ is/was like \_\_\_\_\_ because

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The story's situation \_\_\_\_\_ is/was like \_\_\_\_\_ because

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The story's problem \_\_\_\_\_ is/was like \_\_\_\_\_ because

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**A possible paragraph map for your tall tale:**

1<sup>st</sup> paragraph/introduction: Introduce your main character. Describe him/her using strong adjectives and similes or metaphors. Include exaggeration, and make him/her sound extraordinary in some way.

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraphs/body: Use details to describe the situation in which your main character will display extraordinary talent. What are the circumstances? What problems arise? How does the feat get performed. Include details. Include great word choices and maybe a simile or a metaphor.

5<sup>th</sup> paragraph/conclusion: What happens as a result of your character's amazing accomplishment? How does your main character feel about it? Is there a reward or a gift because of this? How can you leave your reader satisfied with the ending?

Create your rough draft on your own paper. Refer to this graphic organizer as you write.