

Tall Tales



INTRO BUILD APPLY

Summary

Tall Tales presents an ad libs-style cloze activity in the context of a short story or anecdote. To complete the activity, students choose the words and phrases to insert into the story. Students select the most appropriate picture and label combination from a set of options. They may listen to each word or phrase and can also listen to the story at any stage.

Learning Goals

- *Tall Tales* builds **comprehension** using dialogic reading and visual aids. Each blank requires a word that both fits into **context** and matches a specific category, such as a part of speech.
- After all blanks are filled, the game provides corrective feedback and clues so that students may fix their mistakes. This helps to reinforce context and provides decoding support.



Use with a student device such as a Chromebook, laptop, tablet, or desktop.



Use this activity as independent practice.



Also works well with paired play where two students work together to solve it.



How to Use Tall Tales

Individual Practice

Students gap-fill the story by choosing a word for each blank using the current unit's vocabulary. With a single click or tap, the words go into the right place. Each word has a visual and an audio play button. After all blanks are filled, students press "Check My Work" to see whether each answer fits into the sentence correctly. Then they can self-correct any mistakes. Students can also listen to the story read aloud before checking their answers. This helps to reinforce context and provides decoding support.

Evaluating Expressions

🔊 Listen ✓ Check My Work

Maya and Daniel had to work together to solve some math problems. First, they had to _____ the expression $2x - 3$, where $x =$

2. "We need to _____ 2 for x ," said Maya. "Okay," said Daniel. "Substituting 2 for x makes 2 times 2 minus 3." "I forget. What _____ do we do first: multiplication or subtraction?" asked Maya. "Hmm, multiplication goes before subtraction in the _____," said Daniel. "So the _____ of 2 and 2 is 4," said Maya. "And 4 minus 3 is _____ to 1," said Daniel. "Got it!" "We rock!" shouted Maya. "What's the next _____"

Choose a verb.
A verb shows an action or a state of being. 🔊

CLOSE ✕

order of operations

$x \cdot y = z$

product

$y = 2 + 2$
 $y = 4$

solve

$5 = 5$

equal

$+ -$
 $\times \div$

operation

$y = x + 3$
 $x = 2$
 $y = 2 + 3$

substitute

$2x = 7 - 3$
 $2x = 4$
 $x = 2$

evaluate

Peer Practice

Tall Tales is also engaging as a paired activity. Students can solve the stories together and share strategies for picking the correct words. It can also work as a mentor-mentee activity where a student who is behind can learn from a peer. We suggest that the activity be played on the mentee's computer or tablet for two reasons: (1) the data will be tracked for the student who needs the help and (2) the mentee will feel more engaged and empowered if he or she is in control of the device.

Key Learning Strategies

Audiovisual Stories	Students complete sentences by choosing words that match grammatical and semantic categories. They also listen to fluent reading and experience texts above their reading level.
Dialogic Reading	Targeted prompting, listening, and decision-making during reading helps students grow academic language and their narrative, attention and syntax skills.
Visual Aids	Visuals make words more accessible and help students to recognize relationships among words and sentences, develop reading skills, and to retrieve content/meaning from memory.