

Lesson Plan

A Tall Tale

Book: *Giants*

Series: Fairy Tale Creatures

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice writing fictional stories that ascribe a real feature of Earth's landscape to the actions of a giant.

Supplies

- *Giants* book
- Whiteboard
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read the *Giants* book out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

The *Giants* book tells some famous legends about giants. In many of these stories, giants change Earth's landscape. For example, the Story Spotlight ("Giant's Causeway") on page 14 tells of a legend from Northern Ireland. In this legend, a giant makes a bridge by throwing stones into the sea. The rocks really exist. But they weren't actually put there by a giant.

Ask students to list some other parts of nature that legends say giants made or caused. Write their answers on the whiteboard, using the following sample answers as a guide:

- Their footprints can make lakes or craters (p. 5).
- Their movement can cause earthquakes or volcanoes (p. 11).
- They can make mountains, islands, or rivers (p. 18).

Then, ask students to choose one part of Earth's landscape. It can be from the list on the whiteboard, or it can be something else they've read about or seen. Each student should write a one-page story that gives a made-up explanation of how giants caused or created this feature. Students should include lots of descriptive details in their stories. They should also use words such as *next* and *afterward* to make the order of events clear and easy to follow.

Give students a few minutes to write. Then choose a few students to read their stories out loud to the class. Collect the rest of the stories at the end of the activity.

Evaluation

Give students up to 15 points for their stories, using the following point system:

- up to 5 points for creatively describing how giants created the landscape feature
- up to 5 point for using temporal words and phrases to make the order of events clear
- up to 5 points for including descriptive details

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 3 (W 3.3).