**Word Wall: Tall Tales Today**

## exaggerate

to represent as greater than is actually the case; to overstate.

## hyperbole

a figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect.

## simile

a figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared, often in a phrase introduced by like or as, as in “she swam like a fish” or “his face was as red as a beet.”

## metaphor

a figure of speech in which a word or phrase that ordinarily refers to one thing is used to describe another, as in: “The sky was a blank gray slate” or “Her eyes were deep, blue pools.”

## tall tale

a humorous tale told in a straightforward, believable tone but relating absolutely impossible events or feats of the characters. These tales were commonly told of frontier adventures during the settlement of the western United States.

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