Once Upon A Time...

Module 1- Folklore
Module 1 Objectives

- Define folklore and the common misconceptions associated with it.
- Identify the genres of folklore.
- Explain how folklore is a complex, interconnected act of communication.
- Summarize the history of folklore study
- Identify the characteristics of nursery rhymes.
What is Folklore?

“the term folklore was coined in the mid-1800s as a reflection of the people: their manners, customs, observances, superstitions, ballads, tales, and proverbs”

In the vernacular:

“a more general term than folklore in that it can refer to anything that is locally or regionally defined, produced, or expressed”
Acting Folklorically

Ever thrown salt over your shoulder when the salt container accidentally topples over on the table – to avoid bad luck?

Have you said “God bless you” or “Gesundheit” after someone near has sneezed?

You have acted Folklorically…. 
Genres of Folklore

- **Verbal (Oral)**
  Folk songs, Myths, Folktales, Ballads, Knock-knock jokes
  Jump rope rhymes

- **Material**
  Holiday decorations, Dreidel, Quilts, Christmas Cookies

- **Customary**
  Secret handshakes, Crossing fingers for luck, Attempting to conjure Bloody Mary at a slumber part
Folk Literature- Subgenres

✦ Most of us are probably more familiar with folk literature and its subgenres; those stories began as an anonymous oral tradition that, over time, became part of our literary heritage.

✦ Some of these include:

Nursery Rhymes    Ballads    Myths    Fables

Folktales    Tall Tales    Legends    Fairy Tales
Nursery Rhymes were originally passed verbally from one person to another at play or bed times prior to the invention of the printing press.

They were short and easy to remember.
Chapbooks

- Around 1570, nursery rhymes began to be printed in England in chapbooks.
- Chapbooks were small books or pamphlets without a hard cover containing ballads, poems, and stories.
- The first known publication using the term, “Mother Goose,” was in 1780 and the term has stuck ever since.
Rhyme & Rote Memorization

NATURAL HISTORY.

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Tur. cuckoo's a fine bird,
He sings as he flies;
He brings us good tidings,
He tells us no lies.

He sucks little birds' eggs,
To make his voice clear;
And when he sing's "cuckoo!"
The summer is near.