



Bouki & Lapin Secondary



Historic Homes • Gardens • Artifacts • Costumed Crafts People
Boat Tours • Gift Shop • Restaurant



Standards

Standards as developed by the Louisiana Department of Education. Available online at <http://www.vermilionville.org/vermilionville/educate/lesson-plans>.

Grade 8

Social studies

Louisiana History

- **GLE #81:** Explain cultural elements that have shaped Louisiana's heritage (e.g., festivals, music, dance, food, languages) (H-1D-M6)

English Language Arts

- **CCSS.RL.8.3:** Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
- **CCSS.RL.8.4:** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
- **CCSS.RL.8.6:** Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.

Objectives

1. The learner will identify caricatures in *Bouki & Lapin: Tortoise Eggs*.
2. The learner will create a hand-drawn caricature of a character from the story.
3. The learner will identify situations within *In The Grocery* that represent hyperbole.
4. The learner will create an original saying based on the hyperbole element of humor.
5. The learner will identify how humor in literature is created by dramatic irony.

Additional Information

Materials needed: Tablet device with internet capabilities and sound (one for each group), access to YouTube.com, crayons, paper, KWL chart, document #1, document #2, document #3, and document #4.

Pre-Visit Activity

Teachers. We have made two introduction documents available to you on our website – a word document as well as a PowerPoint with pictures depicting the cultures that we represent. Please take some time to review these two documents with your class prior to your visit here. You can access them [here](#), by clicking on

- Introduction to Vermilionville and
- Vermilionville PowerPoint



Have students fill out the K and W portions of the KWL chart on the topics caricatures, hyperbole, and dramatic irony. Next, introduce students to Bouki & Lapin.

Bouki & Lapin stories are hundreds of years old. They originated in the Senegal region of Africa and were brought to Louisiana by slaves. These stories, told in the Creole French dialect, were first recorded by Alc   Fortier, once president of the American Folklore Society and Dean of Foreign Languages at Tulane University, when he was a teenager. In 1894, Fortier published these stories under the title *Louisiana Folktales*. *Bouki* is a Wolof word meaning “stupid hyena” and *lapin* is French for “rabbit”. Oftentimes, one may see these two referred to as “compair” Bouki and “compair” *Lapin*, which simply means “brother”. Bouki’s character is always a bit dull and gullible, whereas Lapin is a clever trickster always out to make someone look like a fool. In this lesson plan, students will be introduced to three Bouki and Lapin tales: *Bouki and Lapin: Tortoise Eggs*, *In the Grocery*, and *Baptizing the Babies*.

An exact definition of **Creole** is hard to find, as there are many variations of it. It seems as though the definition changes with the times. Here are a few facts about this complicated word.

Creoles

- First used to refer to those who were born in the Louisiana colony.
- Later on, Creole referred exclusively to people of wholly European descent.
- Both shared a common European heritage (French or Spanish) and French language
- Cajuns share many cultural characteristics with Creoles. However, the two terms are not synonymous.
- In NOLA, something that is Creole is considered of higher quality, ie Creole tomatoes, Creole horse.
- Today, it refers to descendants of colonial settlers in LA, mainly free people of color.

Anchor Lesson

Introduction

Ask students if they have heard of Bouki and Lapin. Explain that Bouki and Lapin are folktales and oral traditions. Ask questions to get students thinking of some stories they may have been told by family members when they were younger. Who were the characters? What was the point of the story? Was the story funny or serious? How so? Next, briefly discuss where Bouki and Lapin stories came from and introduce a short definition of Creoles to the students. At this point, separate the class or group into three groups.

Group 1 – *Bouki & Lapin: Tortoise Eggs*

Opening – Define caricature: a picture, description, or imitation of a person or thing in which certain striking characteristics are exaggerated in order to create a comic or grotesque effect.

Introduction – Show students this video clip of Bugs Bunny (1:05) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-k5J4RxQdE>. Explain how Bugs is portrayed as being clever, witty, and outsmarts other animals.

Guided practice – Read *Bouki & Lapin: Tortise Eggs* (document #1). Next, have students verbalize comparisons between Bugs Bunny and Lapin.

Independent practice – Students will then draw a caricature of one of the characters from the story based on their actions.



Group 2 – *In the Grocery*

Opening – Define hyperbole: exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally.

Introduction – Show students this video clip (3:37) to present an example of hyperbole:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUzScx6_IWg. Briefly review hyperbole to ensure students' understanding. You may want to have them give a few examples to confirm they grasp the concept.

Guided practice – Read *Bouki & Lapin: In the Grocery* (document #2). Next, have students give examples of hyperbole in the story.

Independent practice – Fishbowl activity: cut out situations (document #4) and place them in a bowl. Have students pull out a situation and create an original hyperbole based off of it.

Group 3 – *Baptizing the Babies*

Opening – Define dramatic irony: occurs when the audience understands what's going on in a situation while the characters are unaware of what is happening.

Introduction – Show students this short video (2:49) on dramatic irony:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZFYuX84n1U>.

Guided practice – Read *Baptizing the Babies* (document #3). Next, have students point out the dramatic irony in the story.

Independent practice – Have students write down a brief description of a moment of dramatic irony from a movie they enjoy. Afterwards, have students share and elaborate on those examples.

Closing

Bring all students together and have them finish the L portion of the KWL chart. Next, briefly review the elements discussed in each group (caricature, hyperbole, and dramatic irony) and review the activities from each group. Finally, choose a student representative from each group to summarize what the take-away was from their lesson.

Post-Visit Activity

Jigsaw activity

Have one student from each previous group come together to form three new groups. In the newly formed groups, have students teach each other what they learned in their original groups. Finally, have student groups create their own folktale used at least two of the humor elements they just learned and share with the class.

Evaluation

Assessment can be done by evaluating the independent practices after each anchor lesson, monitoring exchanges during the jigsaw activity, and evaluating the folktales created by the groups during the Post-Visit Activity.



Differentiation of Instruction

Students with difficulty reading will benefit by having the story read aloud to them.

Students with hearing impairments can be placed closer to the speaker.

Creative thinkers will benefit from the folktale creation portion of the lesson plan.



Document #1

Bouki & Lapin: Tortoise Eggs

One day, quite early, Compair Lapin arose, and he felt hunger gaining upon him. He looked everywhere in the cabin; he found nothing to eat. He ran towards Compair Bouki. When he arrived, he saw Compair Bouki, who was gnawing a bone. — Eh! Compair Bouki, I had come to take breakfast with you; but I see that you don't have anything famous to give me. — Times are hard, Compair Lapin; there are no more rations in the cabin; only this bone left. Compair Lapin reflected a little. — Well! Compair Bouki, if you wish, we shall go hunting for the eggs of the tortoise. — Agreed upon! let us go right off. Compair Bouki took his basket and the hoe, and they started towards the bayou in the woods. — Compair Lapin, I don't often go hunting for tortoise eggs; I don't know well how to find them. — Don't trouble yourself, Compair Bouki, I find all the time a place where tortoises lay their eggs. You, you will dig them up.

When they arrived at the bayou, Compair Lapin walked slowly, looking well on this side and on that side. Soon he came to a dead stop. — Compair Bouki, the tortoise thinks she is cunning. She scratches the ground with her big paw, and she lays her eggs in a hole; then she puts a little sand on them, and then she scatters leaves on her nest. You see this hillock I take off the leaves, and scratch with your hoe; sure you will find eggs. Compair Bouki did what Compair Lapin told him, and they saw a pile of eggs shining in that hole. — Compair Lapin, you are more cunning than I; I am very glad to have you for my friend. Compair Lapin shared the eggs; he gave half to Compair Bouki. — Compair Bouki, I am very hungry; I am going to eat my eggs immediately. — Do as you want, Compair Lapin; I shall take mine to my wife to have them cooked.

They went on a long time still, and they found many eggs. Compair Lapin always ate his; Compair Bouki did not like raw eggs; he put them all in his basket. — Compair Bouki, I am beginning to be tired; I believe it is time for us to return home. — I have enough eggs for to-day, Compair Lapin; let us go back. — As they were going, towards the river, Compair Lapin said to himself: Compair Bouki does not know how to find tortoise eggs; it is I who found them; they ought all to belong to me. I must make some trick to gain them. — As they were nearly arrived at the river, Compair Lapin said: Compair Bouki, I forgot to take some eggs for my old mother. You would be very kind to lend me a dozen. I shall return them to you another time. — Compair Bouki gave a dozen, and they went each on his way. Compair Lapin went to put his dozen of eggs in his cabin, then he went to Compair Bouki's. When he came near the cabin of Compair Bouki he began to complain, and to hold his belly with both hands. Compair Bouki came out — What is the matter with you, Compair Lapin? You don't look very well. — Oh! no, Compair Bouki, those eggs have poisoned me. I beg of you; quick, run to get the doctor. — I shall run as fast as I can, daddy. As soon as Compair Bouki started, Compair Lapin went to the kitchen and fell to eating tortoise eggs. — Thank you, great Lord, I shall eat my belly full to-day. The physician lives far, I have the time to eat all before they come.

When Compair Lapin had nearly finished eating the eggs, he heard Compair Bouki speaking outside. — Doctor Monkey, I am very glad that I met you on the road; my friend is very sick. — Compair Lapin did not lose any time; he opened the window and jumped out. Compair Bouki came into the cabin; he did not see Compair Lapin. He ran into the kitchen; the shells of the eggs were scattered all about. Compair Lapin was already in the fields. Compair Bouki tore his hair, he was so angry. He started to run after Compair Lapin. Compair Lapin had eaten so many eggs, that he was not able to run fast. When he saw Compair Bouki was pressing him too close, he hid in a hole in a tree.

Compair Bouki called Compair Torti, who was passing on the road. — Compair Torti, pray come to watch Compair Lapin, who stole all your eggs. I am going to get my axe to cut down this tree. — Go quickly, Compair Bouki; I shall watch the rascal well. When Compair Bouki started, Compair Lapin said: Compair Torti, look in this hole; you will see if I have your eggs. Compair Torti lifted his head; Compair Lapin sent some decayed wood in his eyes. Compair Torti went to wash his eyes in the bayou; Compair Lapin ran off immediately. Compair Bouki came to cut the tree; he saw that Compair Lapin had already run away. He was so angry he went to Compair Torti, on the bank of the bayou, and he cut off his tail with his axe. — It is for this reason that the tail of the tortoise is so short to this very day.



Document #2

Bouki & Lapin: In the Grocery

There were these two rascals, once. One's name was Bouki and the other was Lapin. And Lapin was always fat. He was in good shape, and Bouki was always, always skinny. And one day, Bouki says, "Lapin, why are you so fat?" He says, "How is it that you are always fat and in such good shape?" So Lapin told him, "If you want to join me tonight, I'll show you." So Bouki went to meet him. He and Lapin left. The moon was bright. They arrived at a grocery. He arrived just under the middle of the floor. There was a plank that had come unattached. So he pushed the plank and he crawled into the grocery.

He says to Bouki, "Now, Bouki, you must behave yourself." And he says, "I don't want you to make a pig of yourself." They arrived in front of a big box, and they opened it. And when they opened it, in the middle of the box, there was a jar which was full of cream. And Lapin started eating, but Bouki was very greedy. He was grabbing it with both hands. And he was stuffing his face. It was dripping from both sides of his mouth.

He says to Bouki, he says, "Bouki, I told you not to make a pig of yourself." And he says "It's time to leave." But Bouki says, "I haven't had enough." He says "We'd better go, the day is breaking." He says, "The storekeeper will open soon. We'll get caught." He said "It's time to go." But Bouki didn't want to leave. So Lapin went and passed under the plank, and he left, and Bouki stayed.

He ate until his belly was about to burst. And when he thought he'd had enough, he come to pass. He couldn't. The hole wasn't big enough for him to pass through. He was stuck. So he went. He hid in the corner of the store. About the same time, the storekeeper arrived. He came in. He was the tracks of cream on the floor and everything. And he went and he found Bouki. He was sitting in a corner of the store.

"Ah," he says, "so you're the one, you rascal." He says, "You're the one who's been stealing my cream for so long. Well," he says, "you're going to pay for it!" He says, "You're going to have to scrub the floor. You're going to have to clean up my whole store." And he says, "You're going to have to paint."

He made him work all day long, all day long! Late that afternoon, he told him he could go. So Bouki knew where he could find Lapin. Right under a big live oak. He went, Lapin was lying down. He was sleeping. He woke him up. So Lapin said, "What happened to you? Why do you look so frazzled?" He says, "You look beat." "Well," he says, "I worked all day long, all day long." He says, "I ate so much, I couldn't pass through the hold and," he says, "the storekeeper caught me." "Ah," he says, "that's what I told you." He says, "I told you you had to behave yourself, and not make a pig of yourself." He says, "You see, when you don't listen to me, how it is."



Document #3

Baptizing the Babies

One day Ti Malice and Bouki decided to make a coumbite (work their fields) together. First they were going to cultivate Ti Malice's garden; afterward Bouki's garden. So they took their machetes and started to work cultivating Ti Malice's peas and yams. Ti Malice said, "Did you hear someone calling me?" Bouki replied, "I didn't hear anything." They chopped weeds some more, and Ti Malice said, "Someone is definitely calling me." He put down his machete and went over the hill. He went to Bouki's house and took down Bouki's honey gourd. He sat in the shade of Bouki's house and drank as much honey as he could. Then he hung the gourd up and went back to his field, where Bouki was working, working, working. "Who was it?" Bouki asked. "Oh, those people wanted me to be godfather to their baby." Bouki asked, "What did you name the baby?" Ti Malice said, "I named him Coummencé (Beginning)."

They chopped more weeds, and Ti Malice said, "Excuse me, someone is calling me again." He put down his machete and went over the hill back to Bouki's house. He took down the honey gourd and sat in the shade and drank as much as he could. Bouki was still in Ti Malice's garden, working, working, working. Ti Malice put the honey gourd back and returned to his garden. "Some important people wanted me for godfather," Ti Malice said. Bouki asked, "What did you name the baby?" Ti Malice answered, "I called this one Dé Fois (Two Times)."

They worked some more and Ti Malice said, "Waille, they are calling me again!" He put his machete down and went over the hill to Bouki's house and got the honey gourd down again. He drank, drank, drank until it was all gone. Then he came back. Bouki had finished weeding Ti Malice's garden. "What did you call this baby?" Bouki asked. "Oh, this one was the last, so I called him Ai Bobo (finish)," Ti Malice said. Ti Malice's garden was all cultivated. He said to Bouki, "Now we will cultivate your garden." But Bouki was exhausted from doing Ti Malice's work as well as his own. He said, "I'll have to let my own weeds grow. I'm done in." He went home and took his honey gourd down for a drink, but it was empty. He was so angry he kicked me all the way here to tell you about it.



It was so cold.	I was so hungry.	Having to wait a long time.	The test was hard.	That was a fast car.	The house was expensive.
My mom is mad.	The dog barks a lot.	I woke up so early.	I was so tired.	That made me so mad.	She has on a bunch of jewelry.
Her hair is frizzy.	His voice is so deep.	That man is so tall.	The dog was big.	The man was so rich.	That woman's hair was so long.
The desk was wobbly.	The concert was loud.	The football game was very good.	The costume was scary.	The shirt was so small.	The box was heavy.
The food was so spicy.	The ice cream was so cold.	I had a lot of homework.	Traffic was so bad.	We have been friends for a long time.	We spend a lot of time together.
These batteries last a long time.	This hat is warm.	I have a bunch of clothes.	My cup was too full.	This shirt is too big.	That lady was so old.
That man's hair is so white.	Those heels are very tall.	Gas is so expensive.	I have so much energy.	Create Your Own!	Create Your Own!
Create Your Own!	Create Your Own!	The fish was small.	The alligator was so big.	Bouki was so fat.	Lapin was so fast.



References

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