Focus on the Genre

Trickster Tales

What is a trickster tale?
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What is the purpose of trickster tales?
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How do you read a trickster tale?
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Who writes trickster tales?
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Features of a Trickster Tale

The main characters are usually animals.

The story is short and usually funny.

The trickster outwits another character to solve the problem.

The trickster may have a flaw.

The trickster has a problem or helps someone with a problem.
Tricky Raven Steals the Light

Earth and sky were as black as night even in the daytime. Foxes could not hunt in the dark. Birds could not fly.

Tricky Raven hated flying in the dark. He could not see where he was going.

One day Raven heard a mean old fisherman talking to his daughter. The fisherman said he kept all the light in his fishing box.

Raven had an idea. He had a special power. He could change his shape. He could look like a rock, or a tree, or anything. Raven followed them to the river.

When the fisherman’s daughter took a drink from the river, Raven turned into a drop of water. The fisherman’s daughter drank Raven. Inside the girl, Raven changed again. He changed to look like a human sleeping inside the girl.

Later, the girl had a baby. The baby looked like Raven. When the fisherman and his daughter weren’t looking, Raven crawled to the fishing box and took the ball of light. He changed back into a bird and flew high into the sky with the light in his beak. Everyone rubbed their eyes. They were amazed to see the sun in the sky.
Night after night, Guinea Pig stole food from a farm. To stop the thief, the farmer made a guard out of sticky tar.

When Guinea Pig spotted the tar guard, he thought it was another thief. "Go away," Guinea Pig ordered. "This is my food."

The guard did not answer.
"Can you hear?" Guinea Pig asked. "Go away!"

The guard remained still and silent.
Guinea Pig tried to push the guard out of the yard, but his paws stuck in the goo!

Just then, Fox came along. "What are you doing?" he asked.

Guinea Pig saw a chance and said, "The farmer said I could marry his daughter if I were taller. This magic tar will make me grow. But I'm tired of waiting to become a giant. Help pull my paws out of the magic tar and I'll let you put your paws in. By morning, the farmer will see how tall you are and will ask you to marry his gorgeous daughter."

"I'll be rich!" Fox exclaimed. "All the chickens will be mine to eat!"

Fox helped Guinea Pig get loose and then put his paws into the gooey tar. Now Fox was stuck!

"Thanks for helping me escape," Guinea Pig said. Then he swiftly ran away, laughing.
## Make Connections Across Texts

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<th>Tricky Raven Steals the Light</th>
<th>Fox and Guinea Pig</th>
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<tr>
<td>Describe the trickster.</td>
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