

# Comparing Themes in Folktales

## Venn Diagram Answer Key

Please note that the answers are somewhat subjective and students may have different ideas. (For instance, students may see elements of animals and nature in The Story Spirits, although those are not the central themes, and they may also see elements of conflict between children and adults in The Story Spirits. Please accept students' answers if they can justify their opinions to your satisfaction.)

Baba Yaga: **G**

The Fisherman and the Little Fish: **H**

The Story Spirits: **D**

The Story Spirits and The Fisherman and the Little Fish: **I**

Baba Yaga and The Story Spirits: **E, F, J**

Baba Yaga and The Fisherman and the Little Fish: **C**

All: **A, B**

180 Understanding Fiction

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### Comparing Themes in Folktales

Many folktales from around the world share common ideas, or themes. The Venn diagram below is designed to help you compare folktales in folktales, focusing on three stories: "Baba Yaga," "The Fisherman and the Little Fish," and "The Story Spirits." Descriptions of these stories can be found on the poster "Read the Folks!" To better complete the diagram, find the original tales at your local library or at [www.worldfolktales.com/tales/](http://www.worldfolktales.com/tales/).

Read in each theme in a letter. If a theme is found in just one folktale, write the letter you see next to that theme in the section of the Venn diagram for that folktale. If the theme appears in two folktales, write the letter in the section where those two story titles overlap. If the theme applies to all three stories, write the letter in the section where all three circles intersect.

**THEMES**

A. hero's qualities (valiant, brave)	F. power of magic
B. search for treasure	G. conflict between children and adults
C. mother and stepmother	H. role of the fisherman
D. story happens and story begins	I. power of words and language
E. good names out	J. role of a character's personality

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