

Intermediate Teaching Tips

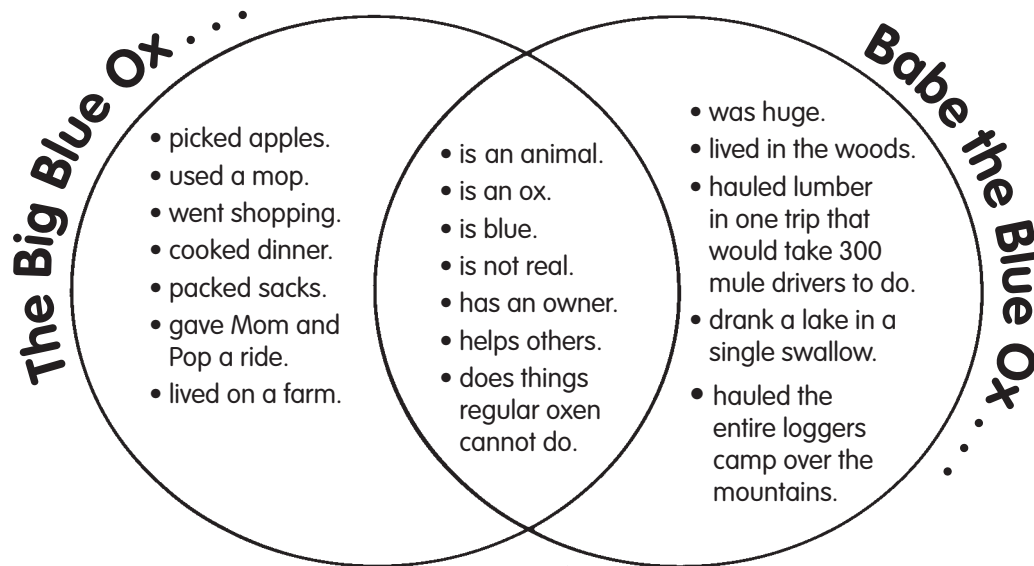
“The Big Blue Ox”

Objective: Children will compare Animal Fantasy stories and Tall Tales. They will also compare Babe the Blue Ox and the Big Blue Ox.

Additional Material: The story “Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox” from *Larger than Life: The Adventures of American Legendary Heroes* by Robert D. San Souci (Note: Any version of a Paul Bunyan story that includes Babe as a character will work for this lesson.)

Step 1: Discuss the Characteristics of Two Types of Fiction

- **Fiction**—writings that tell about imaginary people and events.
 - **Animal Fantasies**—fictional stories that include animals that act like people.
 - **Tall Tales**—fictional stories that are humorous and tell about impossible or exaggerated events. The characters can have superhuman abilities.



Step 2: Read Both Stories

- Have students read “The Big Blue Ox” and “Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox.”

Step 3: Create a Venn Diagram Comparing the Big Blue Ox and Babe the Blue Ox

- Ask students to complete a Venn diagram comparing the two characters. Answers may vary.

Step 4: Discuss the Stories Using the Venn Diagrams

- Ask students to use the Venn diagram to tell why “The Big Blue Ox” fits the description of an Animal Fantasy.
- Ask students to use the Venn diagram to tell why “Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox” fits the description of a Tall Tale.
- Ask students to explain why both stories are fiction.