

April 1, 2009  
 RUSS 324  
 Written Assignment #1

**What are some of the most basic differences between folktales and other literary forms?**

There are a few major differences between folklore and other types of literature.

First off, there are differences in the way folktales are structured compared to other literary forms such as poetry or drama. Literature such as poetry is usually more uniform or strict in format. For example, the structure of lyric "The Guest" is more condensed and straight to the point. On the other hand, folktales are not condemned to a strict or compact format. Also, there is a major difference in the birth of a folktale versus the birth of other literary forms. In novels, like Pride and Prejudice, and other forms, the piece is born the second they are written or printed. Pride and Prejudice was born when Jane Austen put the words of her novel on paper. Even if these literary works are not accepted by society, they still exist. However, folktales are only born when they are adopted by a community. A folktale must be circulated and socialized throughout society, ~~otherwise they are~~ condemned.

? Not sure what you mean here

Folktales and other literary works also differ in concept. Folktales are very complex and embellished with individual creativity. Other literary forms are limited to collective creativity. These forms of literature can also be more objective and apart from the reader. Folktales deal more <sup>in the</sup> beliefs, customs, and traditions of a certain culture. They can be based on past stories or be comprised of traditions passed on throughout generations. For example, the folktale "Vasilisa the Beautiful" features the character Baba Yaga, an important and symbolic individual in Russian culture. Other literary forms

Other way around -  
 folktale is collective  
 novel, lyric, drama are individual

Doesn't all art, though?

Although they are the product of a single author?

lack the relationship that folklore has with culture and community. For example, the play

"Arcadia" features characters and scenes distant from real life culture or customs.

Folklore and other literary forms differ in many ways, and these differences are important in understanding literature as a whole.

The main point - folklore is collective  
& modern lit individual - is fine, but  
what about formal differences? Modes  
of transmission? Reception? Is Arcadia  
really more "distant from real life" than a  
story about a witch?

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