

Jackrabbit McCabe and the Electric Telegraph

by Lucy Margaret Rozier
Illustrated by Leo Espinosa

Can Jackrabbit McCabe, the fastest man in the West, outrun the telegraph, which sends messages at the speed of electricity?

Audience:

- K - 5

Synopsis:

Jackrabbit McCabe is the fastest man in the West. He can outrun anything and anyone... until the telegraph arrives in town. A race is organized by the Mayor and Jackrabbit McCabe's speed is put to the test. Even though he loses the race, Jackrabbit ends up a winner in this entertaining tall tale.

Author Website:

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Curricular Connections:

- Tall Tales
- Writing Similes
- Primary Sources
- Communication
- Technology
- Inventions
- Resilience

Lesson Ideas:

- History of the Telegraph
 - The Library of Congress has a fantastic online collection that houses a variety of primary sources focused on Samuel Morse, his life, and his invention.
 - <https://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/samuel-morse/>
“Samuel F.B. Morse Papers at the Library of Congress, 1793-1919 documents the life and work of the inventor of the electromagnetic telegraph and his participation in the development of telegraph systems throughout the world. A talented artist, this collection also includes many of Morse's drawings and designs as well as his photographs. Also included are writings relating to Morse's family, religion and the nativist movement.”
- Writing Similes
 - Review/discuss what similes are. Point them out as the story progresses.
 - Use the attached worksheet so students can create their own similes.

- Power of Resilience
 - Jackrabbit goes from hero to zero and bounces back again. Students may be able to relate to being really good at something until someone comes along who is better and upsets the balance of things. Students could relate that experience to a partner or in writing.
 - Students can reflect on the theme of resilience in the book and draw personal connections.

Online Resources

- A brief article about the invention of the telegraph provided by the Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov/collections/samuel-morse-papers/articles-and-essays/invention-of-the-telegraph>
- Samuel Morse Resources for Teachers <https://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/samuel-morse/>

Attached Materials

- [JackrabbitMcCabe](#) Similes Worksheet

Common Core Anchor Standards:

- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.1
Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.2
Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.3
Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of text.
- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.4
Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.5
Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.7
Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Suggested Companion Titles:

- [Thunder Rose](#) by Jerdine Nolan
- [Library Lil](#) by Suzanne Williams
- [American Tall Tales](#) by Mary Pope Osborne
- [Cut from the Same Cloth: American Women of Myth, Legend, and Tall Tale](#) by Robert San Souci

Name: _____

Write a simile about Jackrabbit McCabe and illustrate it.

Jackrabbit McCabe was as fast as a _____.



Jackrabbit McCabe was as _____ as a _____.



Jackrabbit McCabe was as _____ as a _____.

