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**Answers for Worksheet 2: Tall Tales**

Read the following story. Then answer the questions below.

**Pecos Bill Rides a Tornado**

retold by  
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Now everyone in the West knows that Pecos Bill could ride anything. No bronco could throw him, no sir! Fact is, I only heard of Bill getting' throwed once in his whole career as a cowboy. Yep, it was that time he was up Kansas way and decided to ride him a tornado.

Now Bill wasn't gonna ride jest any tornado, no ma'am. He waited for the biggest gold-durned tornado you ever saw. It was turning the sky black and green, and roaring so loud it woke up the farmers away over in China. Well, Bill jest grabbed that there tornado, pushed it to the ground and jumped on its back. The tornado whipped and whirled and sidewinded and generally cussed its bad luck all the way down to Texas. Tied the rivers into knots, flattened all the forests so bad they had to rename one place the Staked Plains. But Bill jest rode along all calm-like, give it an occasional jab with his spurs.

Finally, that tornado decided it wasn't getting this cowboy off its back no-how. So it headed west to California and jest rained itself out. Made so much water it washed out the Grand Canyon. That tornado was down to practically nothing when Bill finally fell off. He hit the ground so hard it sank below sea level. Folks call the spot Death Valley.

Anyway, that's how rodeo got started. Though most cowboys stick to broncos these days.

**1. Is this a tall tale? Why?**

**Yes. This story exaggerates the truth in a big way. Pecos Bill could not "ride" a tornado. Rivers could not be tied in knots. People in China could not hear things in Kansas.**

**2. What does this story say about Kansas?**

**This story suggests that Kansas has big tornadoes.**

**3. What does it say about cowboys? This story makes Pecos Bill look like a rough, tough, fearless guy who could ride anything. He is not afraid of this big tornado. He was not going to fall off of it.**