

Definition of a Tall Tale: A tall tale is a fictional story that stretches the truth. The heroes of tall tales are "larger than life." Sometimes the heroes in a tall tale are either made up or are based on an actual person who really lived.

- **Paul Bunyan: Retold and Illustrated by Steven Kellogg**
- **Grades: 2-4**

Summary: A story about a boy who grew up in Maine and decides to take a journey with crew members to cut down trees in different woods until he crosses the U.S. During their journey, Paul and his crew come across a few obstacles. But once they get to the other side of the country Paul decides to give up lumbering and explore the wilderness.

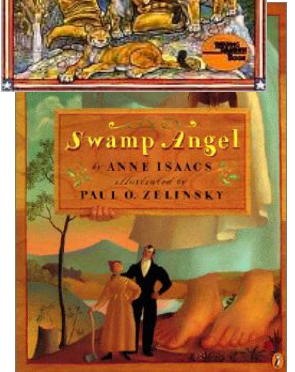
R.R.A.: Write a short story about an adventure Paul has in the wilderness after he gave up lumbering and illustrate it.



- **Swamp Angel: By: Anne Isaacs & Illustrated by Paul. O. Zelinsky**
- **Grades: 2-3**

Summary: Angelica Longrider grew up in Tennessee. She was nicknamed Swamp Angel because one day she lifted a group of settlers' wagons out of a puddle and placed them on high grounds. And the settlers called her an angel. Swamp Angel takes on a challenge to get rid of a bear that was bothersome. Eventually the bear dies and Swamp Angel, Angelica, moves out of state.

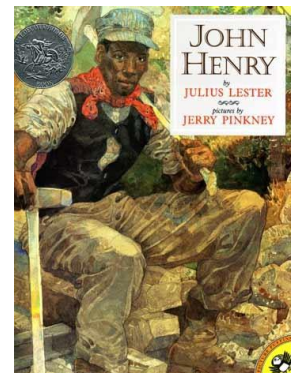
R.R.A.: Describe some ways you would use the bear's body parts to help out others.



- **John Henry Written by Julius Lester and Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney**
- **Grades: 2-4**

Summary: John Henry grew up to be a handyman giant the same day he was born. All of the animals and even the sun gathered around for his birth. John eventually went off and traveled to help people.

R.R.A.: What do you think he means when he sings his song? And describe a few times when you've done something to help others.



R.R.A.: What do all of these stories have in common, and what are some differences?