

Introduction to Folklore II: Folk Genres and Analysis

2010-02-14 Some of Goldstein's "Strategy in Counting Out"
and Oring's "Folk Narratives"

FOLK AND FINA 113

BRIEF DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT

- ✘ Looking for an *ethnographic* study of
 - a. A group
 - b. A performance of their “lore”
- ✘ Using the technical vocabulary (fancy word for “fancy words”) we have been developing over the semester
- ✘ Drawing parallels to other, similar groups / lore performance
- ✘ Contrast with 101 (for those familiar)

GOLDSTEIN: STRATEGY IN COUNTING OUT

- ✗ What do *you* think?

GOLDSTEIN

- ✘ Ethnographically based
- ✘ Determines not simply the explicit rules for counting out but the implicit rules for when to apply them
- ✘ Attempting to move past counting-out rhymes as texts to games
- ✘ 8 groups from the same neighborhood, differentiated by age and gender

COUNTING-OUT

- ✗ Is it
 - + A game of “chance”?
 - + A game of “strategy”?
- ✗ Claimed to be democratic, fair, “fate”
- ✗ However, can be deliberately manipulated for desired outcomes

STRATEGIES

- ✘ Rhyme extension
- ✘ Choice of rhyme repertory
- ✘ Skipping regular counts
- ✘ Stopping or continuing
- ✘ Changing positions
- ✘ Respite by calling out

ORING'S "FOLK NARRATIVES"

- ✘ What did *you* think?

ORING

- ✘ Narrative:
- ✘ Verbal
- ✘ Story told in a certain order
- ✘ Certain things have to happen
- ✘ Initial situation → complicating action → resolution
- ✘ Characters who experience / undertake those actions

TRUE OR FALSE

- ✘ Does it matter?
- ✘ “Just entertainment”?
 - + Educational / pedagogy
 - + What about sacred narratives?
- ✘ Tale: a story that is not told as true (not meant to be a record of objective, ontological events)
- ✘ Myth: sacred narratives – understood as true, absolutely so, within their performance context

TRUE OR FALSE (CONT)

- ✘ Legend: opportunities for the negotiation of a truth claim

- ✘ Local aesthetics
 - + Storyteller

BIG WET SLOPPY KISSES TO YOU ALL

- ✘ Read “Personal Experience Narratives” by Allen, from the *Reader* (and Oring’s “Folk Narratives” if you haven’t already)