



# Pecos Bill

A Texas Tall Tale

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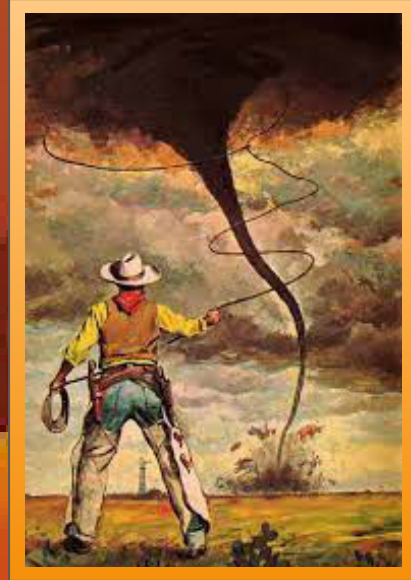
## Characters:

Protagonist: Pecos Bill, very brave, confident, fearless, and good at riding. An interesting fact about Pecos Bill is that he was raised by coyotes.

Character: Slue-foot Sue was an ambitious and strong young woman. Bill's first sight of her was when she was riding a cat fish down the Rio Grande.

Character: Big Brother was the one who found Pecos Bill and brought him back after his accident on the river and getting lost.

Character: Mother and Dad - died of heartbreak from losing little Bill



## Setting:

Location(s): Texas and New Mexico

Approximate year date: 1832 (American Westward Expansion)

Time of year: not provided



# Summary of the story:

In the first tall tale of Pecos Bill, The Birth of Pecos Bill, Bill was born into a family of two parents and eighteen children. Not soon after he was born, Bill's family noticed he was definitely "something else." He was expected to do great things until he fell off of a wagon crossing over the Pecos River, of which he was swept downstream. When he was out of the river and searching his surroundings, a coyote pack takes him in and raises him as one of their own. One day, when Pecos Bill turned 16, Bill's older brother found him out by Pecos River. At first, Pecos Bill did not believe he was his brother until he came to terms with his situation of not being like the coyotes. So he went with his brother and soon became a huge influence among western folk.



Rising Action: Bill's family took them over the Pecos River.

Climax: Bill's older brother found him with a pack of wolves and took him in

Falling Action: Bill runs through a series of event, such as losing his first wife and riding a tornado.

Denouement: Bill had influence and practically created the rodeo and made an impact among western folk.

Exposition: Bill was raised in a good and loving family.

Conflict: Bill falls off the cart

## Mood of the Story:

The mood of the story happens to be traditional, playful, and pleasant.

“Well now Pecos Bill was born in the usual way to a real nice cowpoke and his wife who were journeying west with their eighteen children.”

“Well now, Texas jest became too tame for Pecos Bill once he killed off all the bad men, so he struck out for New Mexico, looking for a hard outfit.”

“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.”

## Author's Tone:

The author's tone reminated frontier virtues of courage, strength, and humor.

“Well, Bill jest grabbed that there tornado, pushed it to the ground and jumped on its back. The tornado whipped and whirled and sidwinded and generally cussed its bad luck all the way down to Texas. “

“Bill went a walkin' with his saddle on his back. Suddenly, he come face to face with a rattlesnake 'round about fifteen feet long and lookin' fer trouble. Now Bill wanted to be fair to the rattler, so he let it get in a few jabs before he beat the stuffin' out of it. Being a kind man, when the snake was beat, he picked it up, wrapped it around his neck and carried it along with him.”

## Find a theme:

Pecos Bill learned to not be afraid of difficulties, to be friendly, and not envy people

Pecos Bill grew from a kid who was raised by the wild to a strong man that helps his town and folkspeople. He learned to act rationally and morally as he grew older, with lessons to learn with every mistake he makes.

Pecos Bill acted the way he acted because of how he was raised and treated. Since he was raised by coyotes, Bill learned to adapt and survive more wildly and sometimes irrationally.

What's different at the end of the story is that he doesn't ever live to tell his tales, yet the story of his death is depended on the story teller. Some stories tell that Bill laughed himself to death when he saw another cowboy in very strange and funny clothes. Other stories inform that he "washed down a meal of barbed wire with nitroglycerin". These various endings goes to show that his story is one of wonder and fascination by the character's being.

# Question: Elements of a Tall tale

This story included the elements of:

A pleasant, folksy tone; “...he would have been a goner!.. Soon as he learned the ropes some, Pecos Bill began to realize that the cowboys needed some new tricks...”

A folktale setting, such as a small town or village; “...Bill would slither out of the wagon while his Mama was cookin’ supper and wrestle with the bear cubs and other wild animals...”

Unbelievable details told with figurative language; “...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...”

The claim or belief that the story “really happened”; “...Made so much water it washed out the Grand Canyon. That tornado was down to practically nothing... Folks call the spot Death Valley.”