

Name _____

Tall Tales

Pecos Bill and the Tornado Tango

Pecos Bill was no ordinary cowboy. Raised by coyotes and tougher than a cactus in a drought, he had a knack for taming anything wild. One scorching afternoon, while riding his trusty horse, Widow-Maker, Bill spotted a tornado whirling across the plains. But this wasn't just any tornado—this one was meaner and bigger than any he'd ever seen.



"Looks like I've got myself a dancing partner!" Bill hollered, tipping his hat. He spurred Widow-Maker toward the storm, and as the wind howled, Bill leaped from the saddle right onto the tornado's spinning top.

The tornado tried its best to shake him loose, twisting and turning like a bucking bronco. But Pecos Bill wasn't about to let go. "Yeehaw!" he yelled, grabbing the funnel like it was a lasso. Around and around they spun, faster than a prairie fire with a tailwind. Dust swirled, tumbleweeds flew, and the sky turned every shade of gray.

Finally, the tornado ran out of steam, collapsing into a puff of clouds and leaving Bill standing in the middle of the plains. He dusted off his hat and grinned. "Guess that's one tornado that won't be blowing folks' barns down anymore!" From that day on, the townsfolk swore they saw Pecos Bill's dance etched into the dirt—a swirling, twirling masterpiece left by the wildest cowboy who ever lived.