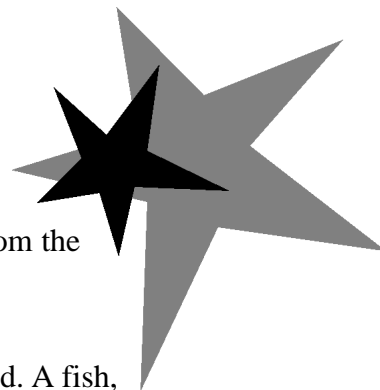




## *Folktale Detective*

### **Be a Folktales Detective**

Not all folktales have an obvious purpose. Sometimes they seem to end abruptly and you have to really think about what the person was trying to tell the young people of their village. What do you think about this one from the Yawuahun clan in Liberia?



A baby star came down from the sky one evening to bathe in a lovely pond. A fish, who resides in the pond, came upon the star while looking around for things to eat. Although surprised to find the star, he politely greeted the guest in the pond and asked, "Hello star. My pond is so small and unimportant, why did you choose to come here?"

The star responded, "No special reason. I found this pond to be clear and sweet and I am only a baby star." Thinking the fish was simpleminded, he added, "Tell me fish, will the moon bathe in the sea tonight?"

"I will be glad to tell you," answered the little fish, "but first you must tell me why the crab lives over there with a water-snail."

The baby star laughed at the such foolishness. "How stupid you are," he said. "I live high in the sky. What do I know of crabs and water-snails?"

"And you too are a fool," the fish declared, "for I live in this pond. What do I know of the sky, or the moon, or if she will bathe in the sea tonight?"

The little star blushed with shame and flew away.

It is said that a storyteller ends the story with:

"This is my story which I have now told you. Whether it is sweet, or whether it is not sweet, take a bit of it and keep it under your pillow."