

Kwento ng Kababalaghan: Unraveling Filipino Mystery Tales

Materials Needed

- Paper or notebook
- Pencils/Pens and eraser
- (Optional) Markers or crayons
- Sample short story or folk tale (e.g., a simple, child-appropriate version of a *Tikbalang* or *Aswang* encounter) – Print or Digital
- Whiteboard, chalkboard, or large sheet of paper for shared notes

Learning Objectives

By the end of this 45-minute lesson, you will be able to:

1. Define **Kwentong Kababalaghan** and identify three key elements often found in Filipino mystery tales (setting, creature, challenge).
2. Analyze a sample story to extract the main characters and plot points.
3. Design a basic outline for your own short **kwento** using authentic Filipino supernatural elements.

Success Criteria

You know you are successful when you can:

- Name at least two types of Filipino mythical creatures.
- Clearly identify the main problem in the sample story.
- Complete the four sections of your personal story outline (Character, Setting, Creature, Mystery/Solution).

Introduction (5 minutes)

The Hook: What's Hiding in the Shadows?

Educator Talk: Have you ever heard a story about a hidden monster, a giant tree that moves, or strange noises coming from an old house? The Philippines is full of exciting stories about the mysterious and the supernatural—we call these **Kwentong Kababalaghan** (mystery/supernatural stories)!

Setting the Stage

Question for Learners: If you could meet any mythical creature, which one would it be, and why?

We are going to become story hunters today! First, we'll learn what makes these stories special, and then you'll get to create your very own tale.

Body: Exploring the World of Kwentong Kababalaghan (35 minutes)

Phase 1: I DO - Defining the Mystery (10 minutes)

Content Presentation: What is Kababalaghan?

Step 1: Terminology. *Kwentong* means 'story,' and *Kababalaghan* means 'mystery' or 'supernatural.' These tales are usually passed down through families and explain things people couldn't understand, like why certain sounds happen at night or why crops fail.

Key Ingredients of a Filipino Mystery Tale

Educator models by writing the terms on the board/screen and giving simple examples:

- Setting (*Lugar*):** Where the mystery happens. (Examples: Under the old mango tree, in a dark forest, inside an abandoned Spanish-era house.)
- Creature (*Nilalang*):** The star of the mystery. (Examples: The tall, smoke-loving **Kapre**; the shape-shifting **Aswang**; the half-horse, half-man **Tikbalang**.)
- Challenge (*Hamon*):** The problem or puzzle that the main character must solve or survive. (Examples: Finding a lost object, escaping a spell, tricking the monster.)

Formative Check: Quick Q&A: If a giant smokes a huge cigar on top of a tree, which creature is it?

Phase 2: WE DO - Analyzing a Sample Kwentong (15 minutes)

Activity: Story Mapping

Step 1: Reading. Educator shares the pre-selected short sample story (e.g., a simple tale about a young boy who gets lost in the woods and meets a helpful, but scary, *Tikbalang*).

Step 2: Guided Analysis. Together, fill out a simple Story Map using the three key ingredients we just learned.

Element	Details from the Story
Character (Who?)	(The boy, maybe a grandparent, etc.)
Setting (*Lugar*)	(The dark woods near the farm, etc.)
Creature (*Nilalang*)	(The specific monster mentioned)
Challenge (*Hamon*)	(The boy is lost, he has to find his way home, etc.)

Interactive Element: Think-Pair-Share. Ask the learner(s): "How did the character try to solve their challenge? Was it successful?"

Phase 3: YOU DO - Creating Your Own Outline (10 minutes)

Activity: The Kwentong Generator

Goal: Use the template below to draft the basic plan for your own supernatural story.

Step 1: Choose Your Mystery. Select one creature from the list (or research a new one!) that will be

the focus of your tale.

Step 2: Complete the Outline. Learners independently fill in their own story outline on paper.

My Kwentong Kababalaghan Outline:

1. **Main Character:** (Who are they, and what do they like?)
2. **Setting:** (Where does the story take place? Be specific—e.g., 'The old water well behind my Lola's house.')
3. **The Creature:** (Which *nilalang* appears? What does it want?)
4. **The Mystery/Challenge:** (What strange event happens? How will the character try to fix it?)

Success Check: Did the learner clearly connect the chosen creature to the setting and the challenge?

Conclusion (5 minutes)

Closure and Takeaways

Educator Talk: We started by asking what kind of mysteries are hiding around us, and now we are the keepers of those mysteries! We learned that **Kwentong Kababalaghan** relies on three things: setting, creature, and challenge.

Summative Assessment: Share Your Secret

Learners share one exciting detail from their story outline (e.g., "My character is solving a mystery about a **Kapre** who keeps stealing my neighbor's shoes from the roof!").

Next Steps (Optional Extension)

Now that you have your strong outline, the next step is to write the opening scene of your amazing **kuento** and describe the setting in detail!

Differentiation and Adaptability

Context	Adaptation Note
Homeschool	The educator provides more verbal scaffolding during the 'You Do' phase, acting as a personal editor and brainstorm partner. Use real-life locations familiar to the student for the Setting to increase relevance.
Classroom/Group	During the 'We Do' analysis, use large chart paper for group answers. Learners can form pairs for the 'You Do' outline phase to peer-review ideas before writing.
Scaffolding (Struggling Learners)	Provide a visual 'Mythical Creature Card Deck' with pictures and one-sentence descriptions of the <i>*nilalang*</i> to aid selection in Phase 3. Provide sentence stems for the outline (e.g., "The challenge is that the character must find the _____ before the _____ disappears.")
Extension (Advanced Learners)	Challenge learners to add a fourth ingredient to their outline: a moral or lesson learned by the character at the end of the <i>*kuento*</i> . Encourage them to start writing the narrative and focus on using descriptive Tagalog adjectives.