1035-Z1-1646   **David - Fowler*** (`fowlerdnmi@gmail.com`), 16 Henzlik Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0355. *Mathematics legends: real, purely imaginary, and complex.* Preliminary report.

Most students in mathematics classes eventually encounter a standard collection of anecdotes and quotations associated with mathematicians. Often these stories have evolutionary histories; meaning that the current versions of the stories may not correspond to the original version – if, in fact, a true original version can be identified. Critical examination of these stories can be useful in the classroom, especially when a valid mathematical problem or proof can be associated with each story. Students can also gain an insight into the difference between "historical fact" and "mathematical truth." Examples will include anecdotes, quotations and mathematical exercises selected from the list: Pythagoras, Plato, Euclid, Archimedes, Al'Khwarizmi, Bhaskara, Descartes, Newton, Leibniz, Pascal, Fermat, Euler, Germain, Gauss, Galois, Kronecker, Cantor, Fawcett, Einstein, Noether, Ramanujan, Erdös. Internet sources providing exhaustive research on a few stories (e.g., the child Gauss) and information on folk legends in general will conclude the talk. (Received September 20, 2007)