

Folk and Fairy Tales from Around the World

Compiled by Peggy M. Johnsen
2003

North America:

Epossumondas. Coleen Salley. Janet Stevens (illus). Harcourt, Inc. 2002.

Renowned storyteller Coleen Sally and Caldecott Honor illustrator Janet Stevens team up for this outrageous twist on the Southern story of the noodlehead who takes everything way too literally.

The Three Questions. Jon J. Muth. Scholastic Press. 2002.

This is the retelling of Tolstoy's short story of the same title (written in 1903). When is the best time to do things? Who is the most important one? What is the right thing to do? A story of compassion and living in the moment.

The Great Stone Face. Nathaniel Hawthorne, retold by Gary D. Schmidt. Eerdmans Books. 2002.

Retelling of this classic story... a moving look at the nature of goodness, character, and life well-lived.

Jackalope. Janet Stevens & Susan Stevens Crummel. Harcourt. 2003.

A jackrabbit who wishes to be feared asks his fairy godrabbit for horns and becomes the first jackalope, but there's one condition: he must not tell lies.

Earthquack! Margie Palatini, Barry Moser, Illus. Simon & Schuster. 2002.

A fun inspired take on Henny Penny, who thought the sky was fallen. Filled with clever word play.

urope & Eastern Europe:

The Deliverance of Dancing Bears. Elizabeth Stanley. Kane/Miller. 2003.

This a contemporary fable about a dancing bear, whose dreams of freedom keep her spirit alive despite the pain and degradation of her existence.

Andiamo, Weasel! Rose Marie Grant. Alfred A. Knopf. 2002.

After a crow is tricked by a lazy weasel, she finds that she can deal with him all by herself even though she is very small. Includes a glossary of Italian words used.

Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales. North/South Books. 2001.

Selected stories and illustrated by Lisbeth Zwerger.

Sleeping Beauty. Mahlon F. Craft, Kinuko Y. Craft, illus. SeaStar Books. 2002.

Beautiful edition.

Puss and Boots. Retold & illus. Steve Light. Harry N. Abrams. 2002.

A clever cat helps her poor master win fame, fortune, and the hand of a beautiful princess. Excellent explanation of art work.

The Marvelous Mouse Man. Mary Ann Hoberman. Gulliver Books, Harcourt. 2002.

When The townsfolk hire a mysterious man to purge the village of mice, he gets rid of too many other things as well. Written in verse.

And the DISH Ran away with the SPOON. Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel. Harcourt. 2001.

A great romp through the "map" of nursery rhymes and some fairy tales to set out to rescue the Dish and Spoon, who ran away. They must be found so the rhyme can be finished.

Latin America:

The Pied Piper of Peru. Ann Tompert. Boyds Mills Press. 2002.

The legend of Martin de Porres and how he rids monastery of mice. Delightful mice!

Jewish:

Invisible Kingdoms Jewish Tales of Angels, Spirits, and Demons. Retold by Howard Schwartz. Harpercollins. 2002.

A collection of nine tales from countries around the world, dealing with an assortment of supernatural creatures.

Gershon's Monster, A Story for the Jewish New Year. Eric A Kimmel. Jon J Muth, Illus. Scholastic Press. 2000.

When his sins threaten the lives of his beloved twin children, a Jewish man finally repents of his wicked ways. Retelling of a Hasidic legend featuring Rabbi Israel ben Eliezer.

Asia - Indonesia (China, Japan, Java, Bali):

Rama and Sita A Tale from Ancient Java. David Weitzman. David R. Godine. 2002.

The story of Rama and Sita, taken from the Hindu epic *The Ramayana*. Javanese shadow puppets are used for the drawings.

The Gift of the Crocodile, A Cinderella Story. Judy Sierra. Simon & Schuster. 2000.

In this Indonesian version of the Cinderella Story, a girl name Damura escape her cruel stepmother and stepsister and marries a handsome prince with the help of Grandmother crocodile.

Stone Soup. Jon Muth. Scholastic Press. 2003.

This classic folk tale is retold with three wise monks tricking a frightened community into finding happiness by teaching them the magic of generosity. Also has retold Tolstoy's *The Three Questions*.

The King's Secret. Carol Farley. Harpercollins. 2001.

With the help of a scholar and a young gardener, the wise king of Korea introduces an alphabet that will enable his people to read and write in their own language. Based on Korean legend.

Children of the Dragon, Selected Tales from Vietnam. Sherry Garland. Trina Schart Hyman, illus., Harcourt. 2001.

An illustrated collection of Viewnamese folktales with explanatory notes following each story.

The Nightindale. Mitchell, Stephen. Candlewick Press. 2002. ISBN 0-7636-1521-8.

This version is a beautifully retelling, not translation, of Hans Christian Andersen's story. The illustrations are exquisite and portray the Chinese art of panel art and tapestry. This would make a lovely gift; also, would be a treasured addition to a collection of this story.

The Warlord's Puzzle. Virginia Walton Pilegard. Pelican Pub. Co. 2000.

Hoping to avoid punishment for breaking a beautiful tile that was his gift to a Chinese warlord, an artist suggests that the warlord hold a contest to see if anyone can mend it. Tangram puzzle.

The Story of Noodles. Ying Chang Compestine. Holiday House. 2002.

Left alone to prepare their family's prize-winning dumplings for the annual cooking contest, the young Kang boys accidentally invent a new dish, "mian tiao," or noodles. Includes a cultural note and a recipe for long-life noodles.

Middle East:

Pinkney, Jerry. *The Nightingale (Hans Christian Andersen)*. Penguin, Phyllis Fogelman Books. 2002. 0-8037-2464-0.

The setting for this version of *The Nightingale* is Morocco. Pinkney's lush, elaborate watercolor paintings and his fabulous illustrations feature the diverse peoples, rich costumes and amazing architecture of Northwest Africa. What a must for your collection.

Russia:

Spirin, Gennady. *The Tale of the Firebird*. Philomel. 2002. ISBN 0-399-23584-1.

This well-known Russian folktale is gloriously retold and illustrated by Spirin's delicate luminous illustrations. What better story to give as a gift: a young hero, a quest to find treasure, a talking wolf, the wicked Baba Yaga, and a beautiful princess!

Africa:

Sense Pass King A story from Cameroon. Katrin Tchana. Trina Schart Hyman (illus) A Holiday House Book. 2002.

This stunning picture book brings together the traditional lore of northwestern Cameroon, uncommonly clever story-telling, and remarkable illustrations from Hyman.

The Village That Vanished Grifalconi. Dial Books. 2002. ISBN 0-8037-2623-6.

"Gather round, my people, gather round! And hear the voices of your ancestors in this tale of courage and of sacrifice." This tale is told in the style of an African folk teller, sharing the magic and mystery of the mythology and history of a tribe; this was the way young children learned how to behave in life. Powerful story of how a particular village completely dismantled their village in order save themselves from slavers. The courage of a particular young girl and the village oldest of the elders have major roles in the plan.

Head, Body, Legs. Won-Ldy Paye & Margaret H. Lippert. Henry Holt. Co. 2003.

This is a traditional creation story from the Dan people of northeastern Liberia in Africa. Mothers and grandmothers tell it to children to illustrate the importance of cooperation.

Beautiful Blackbird. Ashley Bryan. Antheneum. 2003.

This is an adaptation of a tale from Zambia. Appreciating one's heritage and discovering the beauty within is the message. Scissors on endpapers are the ones the author's mother used in sewing and in turn uses for the collages in this book.

Miscellaneous Collections:

Not One Damsel in Distress World Folktales for Strong Girls. Collected by Jane Yolen. Harcourt. 2000.

A collection of thirteen traditional tales from various parts of the world, each of whose main characters is a fearless, strong, heroic, and resourceful woman.

Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales. W.W. Norton & Co. 2002.

Outstanding collection of traditional stories from different parts of Africa., featuring varied characters and themes ... some familiar, some newer.