

Fairy Folk

Compiled by Peggy M. Johnsen

Anderson, M.T. *The Serpent Came to Gloucester*. 2005. Candlewick Press. ISBN 0763620386.

Wonderful rhyming text tells of a sea serpent that plays off the coast of Massachusetts in the summer of 1817 and is hunted upon its return the next year. Includes a page of facts upon which the story is told. Illustrations are done in acrylic gouache. Interesting information on author and illustrator.

Bernasconi, Pablo. *Captain Arsenio, Inventions and (Mis)Adventures in Flight*. Houghton Mifflin. 2005. ISBN 0618507493.

A delightful, humorous pages from the recently discovered diary of Captain Manuel J. Arsenio, in which are recorded his many failed attempts to create a flying machine, starting in the 1780's with the Motocanary, progressing through the Aerial Submarine, the Hamstertronic, and three other disasters. Collage illustrations.

Cole, Babette. *Princess Smarty pants Rules*. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 2004.

When Princess Smarty pants decides it would be lovely to have a baby, there isn't much that can stand in her way. This is a hilarious royal romp, packed with action and drama,

Doyle, Malachy. *Una and the Sea-Cloak*. Illus: Alison Jay Francis Lincoln, 2004. ISBN 1-84507-010-0

This is new tale that weaves in elements of Irish tales such as the Selkie story. Martin finds a mysterious girl by the ocean who cannot return to her people until her sea cloak is repaired. Martin searches for silver grasses, green feathers, and delicate shells so Una can return to the sea.

Jenkins, Martin. *Jonathan Swift's Gulliver*. Candlewick Press. 2004. ISBN 0763624098.

Abridged version.... Quirky, delightful illustrations. The voyages of an eighteenth-century Englishman carry him to such strange places as Lilliput, where people are six inches tall and Brobdingnag, a land people by giants.

Kertz, Jane. *In the Small, Small Night*. Greenwillow Books. 2005.

Kofi can't sleep in his new home in the United States, so his older sister, Abena, soothes his fears about life in a different country by telling him two folktales from their native Ghana about the nature of wisdom and perseverance.

Lightenheld, Tom. *Everything I know about Cars*. Simon & Schuster. 2005.

Funny, delightful "collection of made-up facts, educated guesses, and silly pictures about cars, trucks, and other zoomy things" Other books by Lightenheld: *Everything I know About Pirates; Everything I Know About Monsters; What are You So Grumpy About?*

Lindgren, Astrid. *The Red Bird*. 2003. Scholastic. ISBN -039627966.

This is a translated story of two children who live in poverty with the sternest farmer in the village. They are led to a haven where the sun shines and food is plentiful by a glorious red bird. To stay there, the children must make a simple, but impossible choice.

Lyons, Mary E. *Roy Makes a Car*. Atheneum. 2005 ISBN 0689846401.

The original "Roy Makes a Car" is two paragraphs long and belongs to the Library of Congress. Zora Neale Hurston was a writer, story teller and collector of great stories. This belongs to her. It is retold in a delightful style with great acrylic illustrations. Roy Tyle, the best mechanic in the state of

Florida, can clean spark plugs just by looking at them, and he takes a two-dollar bet that he can make an accident-proof car. Nice short biography of Hurston is included.

McKissack, Patricia C. and Onawumi Jean Moss. *Precious and the Boo Hag*. Atheneum Books. ISBN 0689851944.

Home alone with a stomachache while the family works in the fields, a young girl faces up to the horrifying Boo Hag that her brother warned her about. Illustrations are in collage and oil paints. Wonderfully visuals while the language sings. What a great team of women.

Muth, Jon J. *Zen Shorts*. Scholastic. 2005.

When Stillwater the bear moves into the new neighborhood, the stories he tells to three siblings teach them to look at the world in new ways. Three retelling of classic Zen stories abound with enlightenment and love.

Packer, Tina. *Tales from Shakespeare*. Scholastic Press. 2004.

Packer brilliantly retells ten of the Bard's most popular and powerful works, all of which look at this essential question: What does it mean to be alive? Each of the ten tragedies and comedies is beautifully illustrated by different award-winning artists. David Shannon, Marry Moser, Leio & Diane Dillon are some.

Pullman, Philip. *Aladdin and the Enchanted Lamp*. 2005. Scholastic. ISBN 0439692555.

Recounts the tale of a poor tailor's son who becomes a wealthy prince with the help of a magic lamp he finds in an enchanted cave. The setting is in China, as the first version of this tale was told. A nice introduction by Pullman.

Rowe, John. *Hans Christian Andersen's The Emperor's New Clothes*. Penguin Readers Group. 2004

Again, in celebration of Andersen's 200 year-old birthday, another tale is re-illustrated. Rowe's zany and colorful illustrations are delightful.

San Souci, Robert. *Kenneth Grahame's The Reluctant Dragon*. Orchard Books. 2004

Grahame's classic story about friendship, compassion, and loyalty is beautifully retold by San Souci and illustrated with more than sixty miniature paintings by John Segal.

Sedgwick, Marcus. *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Chronicle Books. 2004.

This classic tale of vanity and pride is given a refreshing twist, starring delightful animals.

Steer, Dugald A., ed. *Dragonology, the Complete Book of Dragons*. Candlewick Press. 2003

A delightful hands-on, interactive examination of everything you ever need to know about dragons.

Tucker, Kathy. *The Seven Chinese Sisters*. Albert Whitman & Co. 2004. ISBN 0807573094.

When a dragon snatches the youngest of seven talented Chinese sisters, the other six come to her rescue. Charming retelling. Bold illustrations.

Ulmer, Mike. *The Gift of the Inuksuk*. Thomson Gale. 2004.

Many lives ago, a young girl in what would become the Nanavut territory of Canada builds stone men, called Inuksuk, to direct her father and brother home when they are lost in a storm while hunting caribou.

Watts, Bernadette. *Jorinda and Jorindel*. North-South Books. 2005. ISBN 0375819874.

Adapted and illustrated by Watts, this tale by Brothers Grimm tells how true love triumphs over evil enchantment. Once upon a time, deep in the middle of a forest ...

Wiesner, David (retold by Wiesner & Kim Kahng). *The Loathsome Dragon*. Clarion Books. 2005. ISBN 0618543597.

A wicked queen casts a spell over her beautiful stepdaughter, turning her into a loathsome dragon until such time as her wandering brother shall return and kiss her three times. Wiesner and wife, Kahng, have freely adapted Joseph Jacobs' 1890 version.

Zwenger, Lisbeth. *The Little Mermaid*. Penguin Young Readers Group. Jubilee Edition. 2004.

This is a wonderful edition with Lisbeth Zwenger's fresh whimsy and charming illustrations harmonizing perfectly with Anthea Bell's brand-new translation. Great piece for a classic collection of fairy tales.