Folktales: a storyteller’s bibliography

Asian Folktale Collections


This is a collection of Japanese tales for children. The stories are long enough to have details but short enough to keep the attention of the child. Great to be told out loud.


This is a collection of Korean folktales that are still told to children. Many are very local to Korea but others echo those of other cultures. Great for young children


Collection of stories explaining celestial events. Some of these originate in other Asian countries but are also told in Vietnam. Great for ages 8-12.

Interactive Stories


This unique collection of tales all have a puzzle for the audience to solve. These are great for the audience to visualize and therefore need the storyteller to pay extra close attention to the details. Can be a lot of fun for older children if told right. They are very short and are mostly open for discussion. Recommended ages 8 and up.


A collection of “lies” for the audience to figure out. These tales can be considered “true”- although one word can obscure facts and trick the audience. F for older children.

Multicultural Collections

This collection of well known stories from around the world offers a nice variety of stories for the very young ones (ages 2-7). There is a prepping section for the beginning storyteller. There is also a flannel board option with patterns and an audience participation how-to at the end of each story. It also includes a “Leading to reading” section that suggests picture books with the story.


This collection is a great teacher tool. It compiles stories in four parts: birth and childbirth, challenge and adventure, love and marriage, death and inheritance. Each part has 4 or 5 stories relating to the topics and each story has a question and answer comprehension section that can easily be used as a worksheet for teachers. The stories are structured almost ready to be told and each has an introduction and a series of discussion questions.


This is a very complete collection of folktales/ fairy tales from all around the world. It is divided into parts of the world. The index is very useful because each story is also categorized by type (i.e. trickster tale, good for young children, great read aloud, etc)

**Stories from the days of Christopher Columbus.** Collected and Retold by Richard Alan Young with Judy Dockrey Young. August House Publishers. 1992.

This book is a collection of stories that were being told in the year 1492. The stories are also set up with a scene of what might have been going on at the time the story was being told. There is a mixture of tales from the ships (Spanish, Portuguese), as well as tales of the Aztec, Mayan and Taino cultures. Great resource for teaching about the colonization of Latin America.


The collection of stories in this book includes stories whose main element is “there was a knock at the door”. There is a wide variety of stories from around the world based on the evil knock at the door. Great for ages 6-12.
**Cinderella.** Collected by Judy Sierra. Oryx Press. 1992

This is a collection of stories from around the world with one topic. The stories in this book are all Cinderella tales. Each story has an explanation and its history. Ages 5-12.


This book is a collection of tales from around the world that focus on the topic of dreams and dreaming. Great for ages 8-12.

**Latin American folktales**


A collection of Mexican folktales not necessarily from Mexico- that is the collection is more of a modern take on original tales and a “Mexican” version of traditional fairytales. These tales are filled with catholic imagery that characterizes more modern Mexican tales. Ages 9-12.


This book is a collection of stories from all over Latin America. The first part of the book includes tales of before the Spanish/Portuguese conquests of Latin American countries and the second part consists of stories of the post conquest era.


This book is a collection of popular folktales from Haiti. There is an introduction of the Haitian storytelling culture as well as an explanation at the beginning of each story. The book also includes simple music scores for each of the songs used in the stories.


This is a collection of the most well known Hispanic folktales. It also has instructions on how to begin a story (in Spanish with an appropriate English translation) as well as the popular ways to end stories in Spanish speaking countries.
**The Boy Who Could Do Anything & Other Mexican Folk Tales.** Retold by Anita Brenner. Illustrated by Jean Charlot.

There are 24 Mexican folktales included in this book that were passed down from native myths and legends and were converted after the Spanish conquest. They were passed on from a popular (in her town) Mexican storyteller- according to the author. Ages 6-up.


This collection of Caribbean tales was passed on to the author by her aunt. Contained here are stories from all over the Caribbean islands as well as mainland countries surround them. Each set of stories has a little background history before it and they are written as they were told by the storyteller. Ages 6- up.

**European Folktales**

**Clever Gretchen and other Forgotten Folktales.** Retold by Alison Lurie. Illustrated by Margot Tomes. Thomas Y. Crowley. New York. 1983

An excellent collection of popular folktales that have strong female protagonists. The protagonists of these stories are witty, brave and resourceful- excellent choice of stories for a group of girls of any age.


This collection includes popular Brothers Grimm Fairy Tales that have simpletons and wise men as protagonists. Includes The fisherman and his wife, The shoemaker and the elves, etc. Very young children might enjoy these but they do reach a wide spectrum of ages since they are classic.


A wide collection of fairy tales from all over Eastern Europe. Many of these are echo tales of other countries, but they are very uniquely Eastern European. Ages 8-up.

A unique collection of traditional tales that is very uniquely Czech, with the elements of traditional fairytales. This collection of seven tales is made accessible by the collector’s excellent translation from the original tales. Ages 8-up


This is a collection of twenty-two very humorous folktales from Latvia. Many of these stories are trickster tales that include a God vs. Devil/Good vs. Evil element to them. Ages 8 and up.

**Scary Stories**

**Ask the Bones: Scary stories from around the world.** Selected and retold by Arielle North Olson and Howard Schwartz. Illustrated by David Linn. Puffin Books. 1999.

Scary, very scary, stories for children. This book has a very wide collection of stories from around the world- from Uzbekistan to Iraq to Iceland and even some from American countries. Ages 10-15.


The illustrations in this book are scarier than the stories themselves. This is a much younger collection of scary tales. Most of them are “Gotcha!” stories.


A collection of scary folktales retold at San Souci’s discretion. This collection includes popular folktales from around the world such as Jack Frost(Russian) and Tailypo (American). Although these tales are meant for children it is wise to take into consideration the ages and sensibilities of this particular audience.