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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography lists recommended books and other instructional media dealing with folktales, fairy tales, and myths for use in preschool, elementary, and secondary education. The list is divided into four grade-oriented divisions. The first section, aimed at prekindergarten through third grade, offers annotations of 44 books, lists 30 books which have received favorable reviews in other sources, and offers annotations of 3 books presented in other media (such as videocassettes, cassette tapes, and films). The second section deals with grades 4-8, and presents 29 book annotations, lists 8 books reviewed in other sources, and offers 1 annotation of other media. The third section deals with grades 9-12, and offers five book annotations. A fourth section for professionals presents annotations of two books, both folktale collections. A 43-item directory of publishers' addresses concludes the bibliography. (SR)

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INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA

TRADITIONAL LITERATURE

Folktales, Fairy Tales & Myths

LINKING RESOURCES WITH NORTH CAROLINA CURRICULUM • JUNE 1992

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INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA

TRADITIONAL LITERATURE

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As indicated by the Table of Contents, most of this Advisory List consists of three grade-oriented divisions (PreK-3, 4-8, and 9-12) that serve as general guidelines rather than exclusive categories for selection of materials. Media coordinators and teachers are strongly encouraged to examine the list broadly to ensure that students performing above or below grade level have access to a wide variety of resources to meet their academic needs and personal interests. Reviewers provide grade range guidelines at the end of each bibliographic entry. When this range does not match the organizational divisions of the list, the item appears in the division where instructional potential seems greatest. Consistent with the nature of fairy tales and folklore, many materials on this list are excellent choices for interdisciplinary use and multicultural emphasis. To assist media coordinators and teachers in identifying titles to support world literature objectives, this advisory list includes the code WL at the end of selected annotations. Resources so designated include works in translation, authentic retellings, picture-books appropriate for older students, and titles for enrichment.

GRADES PreK-3

Books

Aardema, Verna, retel. *Borreguila and the Coyote*. Illustrated by Petra Mathers. unpag. \$15.99. Knopf, 1991. (ISBN 0-679-90921-4) Grades K-3

Translated from Spanish, this Mexican folktale recounts how a clever lamb constantly outwits a hungry coyote. Mathers's flat, primitive illustrations complement Aardema's text, which contains occasional sound effects and Spanish words to enhance its use as a read-aloud. A glossary with phonetic spelling introduces Spanish words and phrases.

Aardema, Verna, retel. *Traveling to Tondo: A Tale of the Nkundo of Zaire*. Illustrated by Will Hillenbrand. unpag. \$13.99. Knopf, 1991. (ISBN 0-679-90081-0) Grades 1-5

While traveling to Tondo with three friends who are to be attendants at his wedding, Bowane the civet cat encounters some extraordinary (and very silly) delays, which stretch what should have been a day's journey into years. Aardema sprinkles delightful sound effects throughout her well-paced

rhythmic text. In mostly browns, golds, and greens, Hillenbrand's full-page, patterned illustrations depict the animals in their natural surroundings and make the personification obvious. A humorous read-aloud in the best "noodlehead" tradition. Glossary and pronunciation guide. (1992 ALA Notable Book)

Afanasiev, Alexander Nikolayevich. *The Fool and the Fish: A Tale from Russia*. Retold by Lenny Hort. Illustrated by Gennady Spirin. unpag. \$12.95. Dial Bks. Young, 1990. (ISBN 0-8037-0861-0) Grades PreK-3

In this English retelling of a classic Russian folktale, a lazy young fool named Ivan catches a pike that promises to grant his every wish in exchange for freedom. Ivan releases the fish and proceeds to use his newfound power to get out of work, to go anywhere he wants to go, and to marry the Tsar's daughter. Spirin, a noted Soviet illustrator, presents stylish paintings that enrich the story with intricate details of Tsarist Russia. A distinctive resource for units on Russian culture, this book differs from many traditional folktales in that the main character does nothing to deserve his good fortune and is rewarded for sloth. WL

Arnold, Tedd, sel. *Mother Goose's Words of Wit and Wisdom: A Book of Months*. Illustrated by the selector. unpag. \$14.89. Dial Bks. Young, 1990. (ISBN 0-8037-0826-2) Grades PreK-6

Through its use of the historical relationship between needlework samplers and Mother Goose rhymes, this collection of eighty verses arranged by months of the year achieves a suitably old-fashioned look with Tedd Arnold's handsome cross-stitch illustrations. A brief conclusion and bibliography offer

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interesting background information on the traditional pairing of embroidery and Mother Goose rhymes. Although its content is primarily aimed at early elementary students, this volume's unique presentation makes it a useful resource for visual arts, home economics, and social studies classes.

Butterworth, Nick, sel. *Nick Butterworth's Book of Nursery Rhymes*. Illustrated by the selector. 51 p. \$14.95. Viking, 1991. (ISBN 0-670-83551-X) Grades K-6

Butterworth's illustrations are the focal point of this collection of traditional "nursery" rhymes, which he enlivens with decidedly original and comical interpretations. For example, juxtaposed with "See-saw, Margery Daw" is a colorful full-page painting that depicts expressive jackdaws building a "love nest," complete with building plans, carpenter's apron, and saw. Young readers and listeners will relish the humor and visual delights of this book, which could inspire some equally creative artwork based on nursery rhymes.

Chorao, Kay, retel. *The Child's Fairy Tale Book*. Illustrated by the author. 64 p. \$14.95. Dutton, 1990. (ISBN 0-525-44630-3) Grades 1-3

Along with the familiar "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "Rapunzel," and "Cinderella," Chorao includes the East Indian tale "Muchie Lal" and the Native American story "The Ants That Pushed on the Sky" in this splendid book of fairy tales. Children will delight in the rich language the author uses in these stories, which are beautifully complemented by the visual detail and expressiveness in her illustrations.

Compton, Patricia A., retel. *The Terrible Eek*. Illustrated by Sheila Hamanaka. unsp. \$14.95. S&S, 1991. (ISBN 0-671-73737-6) Grades PreK-4

Peering around the corners of the book's title pages, the wide-eyed faces of a monkey, a tiger, and a wolf set the tone for this charming version of a traditional Japanese folktale about fears both real and imagined. As a storm rages outside a family's little hut, a thief and a wolf (unaware of each other) plan their

attacks on the people inside. The two overhear the father and son talking inside about things the father is afraid of. While the father admits he fears both thieves and wolves, the one thing he fears most is "a terrible leak." Misunderstandings and runaway imaginations propel the story forward from then on, and Sheila Hamanaka's superb oil paintings augment the comic mood. An amusing resource to preface discussion on communication and children's fears.

Conney, Barbara, retel. *Snow White and Rose Red*. Illustrated by the author. unsp. \$13.95. Delacorte, 1991. (ISBN 0-385-30176-6) Grades 2-4

Cooney uses her typically delicate illustrations to support a straightforward retelling of the classic tale about two sisters who befriend an enchanted bear. Pen-and-ink drawings softly (and appropriately) colored by varying shades of rose meticulously depict the story's various settings and define its characters. Quiet and possibly a bit slow-moving for younger primaries, this title is faithful to the original story.

Croll, Carolyn, adapt. *The Three Brothers: A German Folktale*. Illustrated by the author. unsp. \$14.95. Putnam, 1991. (ISBN 0-399-22195-6) Grades PreK-2

In an introductory note, Croll tells readers that this story has been adapted from two similar folktales from Germany and Latvia and that the illustrations place it in a Pennsylvania Dutch setting. The simple tale is a direct, uncluttered one about a contest between three brothers to determine who will inherit their prosperous family farm. Featuring rich, lush colors and a somewhat primitive style, the illustrations depict an ordered farm life as it still exists in parts of Pennsylvania.

DePaola, Tomie, adapt. *Jamie O'Rourke and the Big Potato: An Irish Folktale*. Illustrated by the author. unsp. \$14.95. Putnam, 1992. (ISBN 0-399-22257-X) Grades K-3

DePaola's characteristic illustrations colorfully enrich this humorous folktale about Jamie O'Rourke, "the laziest man in all of Ireland," and his fortuitous

meeting with a leprechaun. The clever wee man convinces Jamie to take a seed for the biggest potato in the world instead of a pot of gold. Listeners can debate the wisdom of choosing potatoes over gold and can compare this story to *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Strega Nona*, and *The Carrot Seed*.

Goble, Paul, retel. *Iktomi and the Buffalo Skull*. Illustrated by the author. unsp. \$14.99. Orchard Bks., 1991. (ISBN 0-531-08511-2) Grades 1-3

Children familiar with the comical tales of the Plains Indians trickster Iktomi will laugh once again at this character's foolishness as the conceited fellow gets his head stuck in a buffalo skull. Goble's stylized illustrations and amusing asides are delightful enhancements. For story times and independent reading.

Greaves, Margaret, retel. *Tattercoats*. Illustrated by Margaret Chamberlain. unsp. \$14.99. CN Potter Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-517-58027-6) Grades PreK-2

Characterized by sprightly, colorful ink and watercolor illustrations, this traditional English variation of the Cinderella story tells how the gentle, ragged Tattercoats wins the heart of a prince. Reading *Tattercoats* aloud should spark some good class discussion on similarities and differences among the Brothers Grimm classic, the Walt Disney version, and this one.

Haviland, Virginia, retel. *The Talking Pot: A Danish Folktale*. Illustrated by Melissa Sweet. unsp. \$14.95. Little, 1990. (ISBN 0-316-35060-5) Grades K-2

Reprinted from Haviland's *Favorite Fairy Tales Told in Denmark*, this traditional story recounts how a poor family is made rich through the help of a talking three-legged iron pot that the father receives in trade for their cow. Melissa Sweet's lively and cheerful watercolor and pen illustrations are done in mostly muted colors and cartoon style. A recipe for Baked Danish Apple Pudding is included along with the whimsical acknowledgement that it need not "be baked in a talking pot. A common cake pan will do nicely!"

Hodges, Margaret, retel. *St. Jerome and the Lion*. Illustrated by Barry Moser. unp. \$14.99. Orchard Bks, 1991. (ISBN 0-531-08538-4) Grades 2-5

Margaret Hodges's dignified retelling of the legend of St. Jerome and the lion is well served by Moser's shaded, textured watercolors and by the book's formal design, which utilizes the color scarlet for occasional letters, decorations, and a double line to set pictures off from text. Detailed and realistic, Moser's illustrations are particularly effective at conveying a dramatic contrast between light and darkness. Firelight, candlelight, moonlight, and the burning light of the sun—all help to give the reader or listener a strong sense of the story's setting. Probably best presented to children as a read-aloud, this version is easy to follow, with descriptions of setting and character nicely balanced by action which moves steadily forward. (1992 ALA Notable Book) WL

Hong, Lily Toy, retel. *How the Ox Star Fell from Heaven*. Illustrated by the author. unp. \$13.95. Whitman, 1991. (ISBN 0-8075-3428-5) Grades K-5

In Hong's story of how oxen became beasts of burden, the text is appropriately dignified and moves effectively at an ordered pace. It is her illustrations, however, that make this book outstanding. Done in acrylic and gouache, they feature double-page primitive drawings, patterns, muted tones occasionally interrupted by bright red, and strong outlines. A Chinese myth that is very accessible to children.

Hunter, C. W., retel. *The Green Gourd: A North Carolina Folktale*. Illustrated by Tony Griego. unp. \$14.95. Putnam, 1992. (ISBN 0-399-22278-2) Grades PreK-4

Ignoring the superstition about never picking a gourd before it is ripe, an old mountain woman in need of a dipper soon regrets pulling a green gourd off its vine. This story is full of action and excitement, supported by full-color, cartoon-style pictures. The language is a modified form of mountain dialect, making this book an enjoyable read-aloud for story times and for North Carolina study.

Ikeda, Daisuku. *The Snow Country Prince*. Translated by Geraldine McCaughrean. Illustrated by Brian Wildsmith. unp. \$15.99. Knopf, 1991. (ISBN 0-679-91965-1) Grades K-4

Two Japanese children named Mariko and Kazuo work tirelessly to feed and care for the swans who seek shelter near their home during the winter months. Because of their good deed, the brother and sister are visited by the beneficent Snow Prince. His encouraging words sustain them during the harsh weather and their time of loneliness when their mother leaves them to care for their injured father in a hospital far away. Brian Wildsmith's expressionistic pictures are dramatic and appealing, using color and contrast to heighten the beauty of the countryside, the coldness of winter, and the triumphant flight of the swans when winter ends. This multileveled story can be appreciated as a simple tale about kindness rewarded and as an environmental fable about the interdependence of living beings. WL

Kellogg, Steven, retel. *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Illustrated by the author. unp. \$14.88. Morrow, 1991. (ISBN 0-688-10251-4) Grades K-4

Because of his respect for the traditional story, Kellogg manages to remain true to the Joseph Jacobs version of Jack's adventures at the top of the beanstalk, and at the same time to present a variation that is typically Kellogg. On the front end pages, for example, readers see the ogre stealing his treasure from pirates while being watched by a wizard (floating by in a hot air balloon), who is subsequently the one who offers Jack a few beans for his cow. Kellogg's illustrations are filled with inventive and amusing details, such as the "formal" wedding picture of the gruesome ogre and his wife hanging on their castle wall, animal skins (which the ogre wears draped around him) clothespinned to a line to dry, and, of course, Pinkerton, Kellogg's famous canine creation. (1992 ALA Notable Book)

Kimmel, Eric A, adapt. *Bearhead: A Russian Folktale*. Illustrated by Charles Mikolaycak. unp. \$15.95. Holiday, 1991. (ISBN 0-8234-0902-3) Grades K-3

In this adaptation of the Russian folktale *Ivanko the Bear's Son*, Kimmel creates a character who comes through various potential misfortunes because he is either very lucky or very clever. Taking everything he is told to do literally, Bearhead manages to best both the neighborhood witch and a fearsome lake goblin. Although the writing is a little flat, the humor of the original tale is intact and should satisfy young readers and listeners. Mikolaycak's large watercolor and colored pencil illustrations put characters in turn-of-the-century Russian dress, and his studied use of a coral red heightens the dramatic effect.

Kirstein, Lincoln, retel. *Puss in Boots*. Illustrated by Alain Vaes. unp. \$15.95. Little, 1992. (ISBN 0-316-89506-7) Grades 1-5

A traditional retelling of the French fairy tale, dazzlingly illustrated with sumptuously detailed paintings. Marked by distinctive charm and sly humor, this collaboration brings together two names long associated with the world of ballet. Artist Alain Vaes successfully blends photorealism with 17th and 18th century sources for his sometimes grotesque characterizations, even slipping in a 20th century one (W. C. Fields as the king!). Captivating to the eye and ear. WL

Krensky, Stephen. *The Missing Mother Goose*. Illustrated by Chris Demarest. 48 p. \$15.99. Doubleday, 1991. (ISBN 0-385-26274-4) Grades K-5

Imaginative and humorous narratives fill in "missing" details for seven well-known Mother Goose rhymes. For example, Humpty Dumpty is a traveling performer whose last great stunt is actually an accidental fall which leads him to an early retirement. Colorful cartoons by Chris Demarest heighten the comic tone of the stories, each of which begins with the original rhyme. Drawing on *The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes*, Krensky includes informative notes about the verses which inspired these playful romps. Should prompt readers and listeners to adapt their own favorite rhymes as stories, and vice versa.

Ludwig, Warren, adapt. *Old Noah's Elephants*. Illustrated by the author. unpag. \$14.95. Putnam, 1991. (ISBN 0-399-22256-1) Grades PreK-3

Based on an Israeli folktale, this amusing story recounts how two greedy elephants almost tip over Noah's ark with their ever-increasing bulk. However, divine intervention and the advice "Tickle the hyena" save the ark and its occupants from disaster. Ludwig accentuates the story's humor with expressive, colorful illustrations. A delightful resource that could spark creative writing which expands on well-known narratives.

Marcus, Leonard S., and Amy Schwartz, eds. *Mother Goose's Little Misfortunes*. Illustrated by Amy Schwartz. unpag. \$15.95. Bradbury Pr, 1990. (ISBN 0-02-781431-9) Grades PreK-2

A charming selection of eighteen nursery rhymes focusing on humorous verses that "recast misfortune so that it looms less large." Using airy lines and spare splashes of color on white background, illustrator Amy Schwartz depicts hapless characters facing a variety of problems. For example, an alarmed Miss Mackay watches helplessly as her silverware marches off her table and out the door, and dogs and people run for cover to escape the rain they wish would "go away." Laughing at ourselves is the theme of this fresh, stylized picture book, which would be a useful resource for discussing children's fears or expressing them in writing and art.

Marshall, James, retel. *Hansel and Gretel*. Illustrated by the author. unpag. \$12.89. Dial Bks. Young, 1990. (ISBN 0-8037-0828-9) Grades K-3

In his retelling of the Hansel and Gretel story, Marshall sticks close to the traditional version. The illustrations, though, are pure delight, filled with interesting details and marvelous characterization (the bow-bedecked witch has an overblown figure, chartreuse fingernails, and a constant supercilious grin). Great fun as a read-aloud or read-alone, with readable pictures as a bonus.

Martin, Rafe, retel. *The Rough-Face Girl*. Illustrated by David Shannon. unpag. \$14.95. Putnam, 1992. (ISBN 0-399-21859-9) Grades 2-5

A haunting Algonquin version of the Cinderella story, this exceptional title tells how a scarred, mistreated young woman succeeds where her cruel and proud older sisters fail. As a reward for her goodness and courage, the Rough-Face Girl can see the much-sought-after Invisible Being, thereby becoming his wife and living happily ever after. Beautifully illustrated with lush, evocative paintings. WL

Michael Foreman's *Mother Goose*. Illustrated by Michael Foreman. 158 p. \$19.95. HarbraceJ, 1991. (ISBN 0-15-255820-9) Grades PreK-5

Foreman's collection has all the qualities of a desirable Mother Goose book, including a large number of rhymes, both familiar and unfamiliar; a format that keeps the rhymes distinct; truly illustrative pictures; and an index of first lines. Drawn in cartoon style and colored mostly in pastels, Foreman's pictures for the thematically-related rhymes are themselves interrelated, from the cover to the final page of the index. Action, humor, and the kind of detail that will draw a child back to the book again and again characterize the visuals. Sure to take its place among the standard large Mother Goose collections. (1992 ALA Notable Book)

Mollel, Tololwa M., retel. *The Orphan Boy: A Maasai Story*. Illustrated by Paul Morin. unpag. \$14.95. Clarion Bks., 1991. (ISBN 0-89919-985-2) Grades 2-5

A stunning version of the Maasai myth about Venus, the morning and evening star, Mollel's flowing narrative is gloriously enhanced by Paul Morin's splendid paintings. With their radiant color, these illustrations capture both the severity and beauty of the African landscape and illuminate the drama of this story about a magical orphan boy and an old man's foolish curiosity. Highly recommended. (1992 ALA Notable Book) WL

Mollel, Tololwa M., retel. *Rhinos for Lunch and Elephants for Supper!* Illustrated by Barbara Spurr. unpag. \$14.95. Clarion Bks., 1992. (ISBN 0-395-60734-5) Grades PreK-3

Things may not always be what they seem, as this version of a Maasai folktale proves. An unseen intruder has taken over a rabbit's cave, and with booming voice he brags that he is a monster who eats "rhinos for lunch and elephants for supper." Spurr augments the story with comic touches in her depictions of jungle beasts who try to help the frightened rabbit. For example, the mother leopard is shown reading a book to her brood with spectacles perched on her nose. Listeners will chuckle at the surprise ending, which may provoke comment about fears and about letting our imaginations run away with us.

Nones, Eric Jon. *The Canary Prince*. Illustrated by the author. unpag. \$14.95. FS&G, 1991. (ISBN 0-374-31029-7) Grades 2-6

Author/illustrator Nones has crafted a visually stunning version of a Turinese folktale about a jealous stepmother, an imprisoned princess, and a love-stricken prince. Flowered endpapers and bordered, Italian Renaissance-style paintings evoke a romantic tone, beautifully complementing the tender story. This book could supplement lessons on art history as well as on the culture, dress, and buildings of the Renaissance period. WL

Old Mother Hubbard and Her Wonderful Dog. Illustrated by James Marshall. unpag. \$13.95. FS&G, 1991. (ISBN 0-374-35621-1) Grades PreK-3

The traditional rhyme is definitely enlivened by James Marshall's colorful, detailed, and hilarious illustrations. This delightful match of pictures to words would be especially useful with young children enjoying the rhyme for its own sake. Older readers will appreciate the many humorous touches Marshall adds to his pictures, such as Mother Hubbard sliding down the banister on her way to the cupboard and the dog reading *The Daily Droll* to a group of mice.

Olson, Arielle North, retel. *Noah's Cats and the Devil's Fire*. Illustrated by Barry Moser. unp. \$14.99. Orchard Bks., 1992. (ISBN 0-531-08584-8) Grades 1-5

Based on a Romanian folktale, this lively narrative with strong oral features recounts the trouble created on Noah's ark when the Devil manages to stow away as a mouse. Moser's dark, transparent watercolors provide excellent support for this tale of evil and malice. His highly dramatic visuals play a major part in the book's effect, enhancing its use as a read-aloud for older primaries and up. A good representation of Middle European folklore.

Paxton, Tom, retel. *Androcles and the Lion and Other Aesop's Fables*. Illustrated by Robert Rayevsky. unp. \$13.88. Morrow, 1991. (ISBN 0-688-09683-2) Grades K-3

Retold in rhymed verse, these ten familiar fables recount the wisdom, foolishness, and treachery of men and animals, from kindhearted Androcles to the cunning wolf in sheep's clothing. Enhanced by Robert Rayevsky's clever illustrations, which draw on several time periods (ancient Rome, medieval Europe, modern-day New York City), the traditional tales are excellent resources for discussing morals and fine examples of storytelling in verse.

Plume, Ilse, retel. *The Shoemaker and the Elves*. Illustrated by the author. unp. \$14.95. HarbraceJ, 1991. (ISBN 0-15-274050-3) Grades K-2

In her version of the classic tale, Plume has added extra characters and set the narrative in Renaissance Italy. These changes and the brightness of her colored pencil work have lightened the story's mood. Smooth and easy to read aloud, the text makes this book particularly good for use with young children just beginning to explore the folktale genre.

Poole, Josephine, retel. *Snow White*. Illustrated by Angela Barrett. unp. \$16.99. Knopf, 1992. (ISBN 0-679-92656-9) Grades 1-5

Poole's retelling of the Brothers Grimm version of Snow White is a

worthy match for Angela Barrett's dramatic illustrations. Beautifully detailed and lushly evoked, these paintings are truly the stuff of which dreams and fairy tales are made. Highly recommended.

Simons, Jamie and Scott, retel. *The Gods of Olympus Series*. Illustrated by Deborah Winograd. 2 titles each unp. each \$12.95. Silver Press, 1991. Grades K-5 (Available from Silver Burdett Pr.)
Why Dolphins Call: A Story of Dionysus (ISBN 0-671-69121-X). *Why Spiders Spin: A Story of Arachne* (ISBN 0-671-69122-1).

In these inviting picture book versions of classic Greek myths, Winograd's vivid and expressive illustrations contain details evoking early Greek dress, landscape, and artifacts. While one title actually recounts the legend of Arachne, the other merely features the god Dionysus in the story of how dolphins came to be. Since both of these tales deal with humans being punished by gods, young listeners may enjoy discussing the outcomes from a judicial standpoint, as well as creating stories of their own to explain natural phenomena.

Small, Terry, retel. *The Legend of William Tell*. Illustrated by the author. unp. \$14.95. Bantam, 1991. (ISBN 0-553-07031-2) Grades 1-5

Terry Small's verse retelling of the William Tell legend will help fill a void in the area of good narrative poetry. A rousing adventure tale, the text is composed of quatrains which move quickly and surely with a rhythm that makes for a delightful reading or listening experience. The book's design suggests illuminated manuscripts; and Small's realistic illustrations reflect the period, with colorful depictions of dress, weaponry, and Swiss architecture. An interesting feature is a narrow interior frame in each picture which serves to focus the reader's eye. A good introduction to the pleasures of poetic narrative. WL

Stewig, John Warren, retel. *Stone Soup*. Illustrated by Margot Tomes. unp. \$14.95. Holiday, 1991. (ISBN 0-8234-0863-9) PreK-3

A quiet, pleasant retelling of the traditional tale, this successful version has as its heroine a girl named Grethel, who finds herself tired, hungry, and in a village whose residents make excuses to keep from sharing any of their food with her. Stewig's flowing prose stresses the subtle humor of clever Grethel's actions. Tomes sketches Grethel as a serious, thoughtful girl and the townspeople as prosperous peasants who don't have a clue as to what she is doing. Listeners will delight in this story about a smart girl who outwits adults.

Tanaka, Beatrice, retel. *The Chase: A Kutenai Indian Tale*. Illustrated by Michael Gay. unp. \$14.99. Crown, 1991. (ISBN 0-517-58624-X) Grades PreK-2

In this classic case of jumping to conclusions, animals one by one chase after each other, assuming that some danger is causing the flight of the others. Children will chuckle when the story's climax reveals that Rabbit, the initial runner, was merely hurrying home because he was late for dinner. Michael Gay's cartoonish watercolors match the simplicity of this charming read-aloud.

Tejima, retel. *Ho-Limlim: A Rabbit Tale from Japan*. Illustrated by the author. unp. \$14.95. Philomel Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-399-22156-5) Grades PreK-3

The swirling, moving detail of Tejima's colored woodcuts vividly enhances this story of the aging Japanese rabbit Ho-Limlim, whose adventure is part of the Ainu oral tradition and is narrated here in first person. Once young and vigorous, Ho-Limlim is lured to take one last spring outing away from home, only to have his weakened eyes deceive him into thinking he sees a whale, two men fighting, and his home ablaze. Tejima's brilliant artwork memorably reproduces a natural setting and the serene and gentle rabbit the Ainu revere. Reading aloud the lyric narrative could preface discussion of problems faced by the elderly or of universal themes (e.g., "there's no place like home"). WL

Thomson, Peggy, retel. *The Brave Little Tailor*. Illustrated by James Warhola. unp. \$15.00. S&S, 1992. (ISBN 0-671-73736-8) Grades 1-5

Written in an almost contemporary voice, this retelling of the traditional story about the boastful little tailor and his clever feats will captivate young audiences with its detailed illustrations. James Warhola's watercolors (alternately in full color and sepia tones) are masterfully scaled compositions from unique points of view, a visual feast for young and old alike.

Tune, Suelyn Ching, retel. *Maui and the Secret of Fire*. Illustrated by Robin Yoko Purningham. unp. \$9.95. UH Pr., 1991. (ISBN 0-8248-1391-X) Grades 2-5

Williams, Julie Stewart, retel. *Maui Goes Fishing*. Illustrated by Robin Yoko Purningham. unp. \$9.95. UH Pr., 1991. (ISBN 0-8248-1390-1) Grades 2-5

Inspired by Hawaiian legends collected in *Tales of the Menehune*, these two titles recount adventures of a young demigod, Maui-of-a-thousand-tricks. *Maui Goes Fishing* introduces the trickster as the youngest of four brothers, who is constantly teased about being a poor fisherman. To prove himself, Maui creates a magical fishing hook, with which he "catches" the land that becomes the Hawaiian islands. In the other title, Maui captures the leader of the mud hens and forces her to teach him the secret of making fire by rubbing two sticks together. Purningham supports these tales with bright, colorful paintings depicting a handsome people and many examples of Hawaiian plant and animal life. Useful resources for folklore collections, units focusing on Hawaii, and discussion comparing myths from different cultures.

Volkmer, Jane Anne, retel. *Song of the Chirimia: A Guatemalan Folktale!* *La Musica de la Chirimia: Folklore Guatemalteco*. Illustrated by the author. Translated by Lori Ann Schatschneider. unp. \$12.95. Carolrhoda Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-87614-423-7) Grades 1-5

This bilingual (English and Spanish) retelling of the Mayan legend of the

chirimia combines flowing narrative with distinctive visuals based on carvings found in the ruins of Guatemala's ancient Mayan cities. Entranced by young Black Feather's singing, the Mayan princess Moonlight promises to marry him if he can "learn to sing like the birds." Young readers will learn details of Mayan dress, spiritual heritage, and art while they enjoy this romantic story. WL

Wang, Rosalind, retel. *The Fourth Question: A Chinese Tale*. Illustrated by Ju-Hong Chen. unp. \$14.95. Holiday, 1991. (ISBN 0-8234-0855-8) Grades K-3

Yet another tale of kindness rewarded, this traditional story from China features a young man named Yee-Lee, who wonders, "Why, in spite of all my hard work, am I still so poor?" Seeking advice from the Wise Man of Kun-lun Mountain, Yee-Lee finds he must choose between helping himself or helping others. Chen's pencil and watercolor illustrations in soft, light colors add detail and charm to Wang's accessible narrative. A well-crafted resource for story times and the study of Chinese culture.

Wilson, Barbara Ker, retel. *The Turtle and the Island: A Folktale from Papua New Guinea*. Illustrated by Frane Lessac. unp. \$13.89. Lippincott, 1990. (ISBN 0-397-32439-1) Grades K-2

Characterized by quiet, formal prose and primitive-style illustrations in bright colors, this title recounts the legend of how a giant sea turtle, looking for a piece of land to rest upon, builds the island that has become New Guinea. Although simplified for younger audiences, the story contains elements of classic myth and should give students a sense of how this genre works. The illustrations depict the variety of Pacific Ocean life and also impart a realistic sense of the island's isolation.

Books Reviewed in Other Sources

(See code explanation on page 13)

Aardema, Verna, retel. *Anansi Finds a Fool*. Illustrated by Bryna Waldman. unp. \$13.89. Dial Bks.

Young, 1992. (ISBN 0-8037-1165-4) Grades 1-3. SLJ

_____, retel. *Pedro & the Padre*.

Illustrated by Friso Henstra. unp. \$12.89. Dial Bks. Young, 1991. (ISBN 0-8037-0523-9) Grades 1-3. BCCB KR PW

Allen, Linda, retel. *The Mouse Bride*. Illustrated by the author. unp. \$14.95. Philomel Bks., 1992. (ISBN 0-399-22136-0) Grades PreK-3. BKL KR

Allison, Diane Worfolk. *This Is the Key to the Kingdom*. Illustrated by the author. unp. \$15.95. Little, 1992. (ISBN 0-316-03432-0) Grades PreK-1. BKL KR

Andersen, Hans Christian. *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Retold by Riki Levenson. Illustrated by Robert Byrd. unp. \$14.95. Dutton, 1991. (ISBN 0-525-44611-7) Grades PreK-2. BKL PW SLJ

_____. *The Swineherd*. Adapted and illustrated by Deborah Hahn. unp. \$14.88. Lothrop, 1991. (ISBN 0-688-10053-8) Grades K-2. HBG KR PW SLJ

Barton, Byron, retel. *The Three Bears*. Illustrated by the author. unp. \$11.89. HarperCollins, 1991. (ISBN 0-06-020424-9) PreK. BCCB BKL HBG PW SLJ

Czernecki, Stefan, and Timothy Rhodes. *The Sleeping Bread*. Illustrated by Stefan Czernecki. 40p. \$14.89. Hyperion Child, 1992. (Available from Little) (ISBN 1-56282-207-1) Grades 1-2. BKL PW SLJ

Diane Goode's *Book of Silly Stories & Songs*. Illustrated by Diane Goode. 64p. \$15.00. Dutton, 1992. (ISBN 0-525-44967-1) Grades 1-5. SLJ

Enright, Elizabeth. *Tatsinda*. Illustrated by Katie Thamer Treherne. 64p. HarbraceJ, 1991. (ISBN 0-15-284280-2) Grades K-4. SLJ

Esterl, Arnica, adapt. *The Fine Round Cake*. Translated from German by Pauline Hejl. Illustrated by

Andrej Dugin and Olga Dugina. unpub. *Four Winds*, 1991. (ISBN 0-02-733568-2) Grades K-3. BKL HB HBG NYTBR SLJ

Hodges, Margaret, retel. *The Golden Deer*. Illustrated by Daniel San Souci. unpub. \$14.95. Scribner, 1992. (ISBN 0-684-19218-7) Grades 2-4. BKL KR

Johnson, Evelyne, retel. *The Cow in the Kitchen*. Illustrated by Anthony Rao. unpub. \$8.95. Bell Bks., 1991. (Available from Boyds Mills Pr.) (ISBN 1-878093-45-2) Grades K-3. HBG

Kellogg, Steven, retel. *Mike Fink*. Illustrated by the author. unpub. \$14.93. Morrow, 1992. (ISBN 0-688-07004-3) Grades K-4. SLJ

Kherdian, David, retel. *Feathers and Tails: Animal Fables from Around the World*. Illustrated by Nonny Hogrogian. 95p. \$19.95. Philomel Bks., 1992. (ISBN 0-399-21876-9) Grades K-6. SLJ*

Kimmel, Eric A., retel. *Anansi Goes Fishing*. Illustrated by Janet Stevens. unpub. \$14.95. Holiday, 1992. (ISBN 0-8234-0918-X) Grades K-2. BKL KR* SLJ

_____. *Boots and His Brothers*. Illustrated by Kimberly Bulcken Root. unpub. \$14.95. Holiday, 1992. (ISBN 0-8234-0886-8) Grades 1-5. BCCB* BKL KR* PW SLJ

_____. *The Greatest of All*. Illustrated by Giora Carmi. unpub. \$14.95. Holiday, 1991. (ISBN 0-8234-0885-X) Grades PreK-2. BKL HBG KR PW SLJ

Langley, Jonathan, retel. *Rumpelstiltskin*. Illustrated by the author. unpub. \$14.89. HarperCollins, 1992. (ISBN 0-06-020199-1) Grades K-3. BKL KR PW SLJ

Manson, Christopher, retel. *The Crab Prince*. Illustrated by the author. unpub. \$14.95. H. Holt & Co., 1991. (ISBN 0-8050-1215-X) Grades K-3. BKL HBG KR SLJ

Mantiband, Gerda, retel. *The Blabbermouths*. Illustrated by Paul Borovsky. unpub. \$13.93. Greenwillow, 1992. (ISBN 0-688-10604-8) Grades 2-4. HB PW SLJ

Martin, Claire, retel. *Boots and the Glass Mountain*. Illustrated by Gennady Spirin. unpub. \$14.89. Dial Bks. Young, 1992. (ISBN 0-8037-1111-5) Grades 2-4. HB SLJ

Mollet, Tololwa M. *A Promise to the Sun: An African Story*. Illustrated by Beatriz Vidal. \$15.95. Little, 1992. (ISBN 0-316-57813-4) Grades PreK-2. KR PW SLJ

Morris, Winifred, retel. *The Future of Yen-Tzu*. Illustrated by Friso Henstra. unpub. \$13.95. Atheneum, 1992. (ISBN 0-689-31501-5) Grades K-4. BKL KR SLJ

Pattison, Darcy. *The River Dragon*. Illustrated by Jean and Mou-Sien Tseng. unpub. \$13.88. Lothrop, 1991. (ISBN 0-688-10427-4) Grades 1-3. BCCB KR PW SLJ

Sage, Alison, retel. *Rumpelstiltskin*. Illustrated by Gennady Spirin. 29p. Dial Bks. Young, 1991. (ISBN 0-8037-0908-0) Grades K-3. BKL HB NYTBR SLJ

San Souci, Robert D., retel. *The Firebird*. Illustrated by Kris Waldherr. unpub. \$13.89. Dial Bks. Young, 1992. (ISBN 0-8037-0800-9) Grades 2-4. BKL PW

Wallis, Diz, retel. *Something Nasty in the Cabbages*. Illustrated by the author. unpub. \$13.95. Caroline House, 1991. (Available from Boyds Mills Pr.) (ISBN 1-878093-10-X) Grades 2-6. BCCB HBG KR SLJ

Yacowitz, Caryn, adapt. *The Jade Stone: A Chinese Folktale*. Illustrated by Ju-Hong Chen. unpub. \$14.95. Holiday, 1992. (ISBN 0-8234-0919-8) Grades PreK-3. BKL HB KR* SLJ*

Other Media

Andersen, Hans Christian. *The Emperor's New Clothes*. slipcased hardcover book and cassette tape \$19.95. Rabbit Ears, 1989. (Available from Picture Bk. Studio) (ISBN 0-88708-161-4) Grades K-5

Heralded by a properly regal musical fanfare (which goes on much too long), Sir John Gielgud reads this classic tale of a monarch's vanity and foolishness with wit and panache. The text of this adaptation for book and audiocassette is appropriately formal, while Van Nutt's glorious, detailed paintings of the emperor's beribboned and ornate costumes and castle embellish the tale with stylish visuals. A good resource for storytelling centers and individual reading pleasure.

Bang, Molly, adapt. *The Paper Crane*. 1 videocassette 9 min. catalog cards, guide. VHS \$35.00. Am. Sch. Pubs., 1991. (Order No. 0-07-004617-4) Grades K-3

This iconographic video supplements but does not replace the use of Bang's book. For the most part, the presentation duplicates Bang's original collages, adding a few more and using separate parts of relevant pictures to achieve a sense of movement. Original background music featuring flutes suggests the elements of mystery and magic within the plot, while the addition of restaurant noises emphasizes the realistic setting. Ashley Bryan's narration is clear, but his pace is slow and his inflection puzzling at times. The two-page guide or "mediagram" provides background information, summary, and teaching suggestions. (1989 ALA Notable Children's Filmstrip)

Roberts, Tom, retel. *Red Riding Hood*. slipcased hardcover book and cassette tape \$19.95. Rabbit Ears, 1990. (Available from Picture Bk. Studio) (ISBN 0-88708-163-0) Grades K-5

Enlivened by Meg Ryan's skillful, expressive narration and Art Lande's mood-enhancing music, the audio presentation of this book-with-cassette version of Red's story is delightful. Roberts provides Miss Ryan with an excellent, conversational narrative

containing clever details (e.g., Red's real name is actually Millicent) and distinctive dialogue for each character. Further suggestions for characterization appear in Laszlo Kubinyi's intricate, colored pencil illustrations, which set the tale on America's western frontier and provide the wolf with a jeweled ring and dandy's cane. A humorous, well-designed adaptation.

GRADES 4-8

Books

Andersen, Hans Christian. *The Ugly Duckling*. Translated by Anthea Bell. Illustrated by Alan Marks. unpag. \$14.95. Picture Bk. Studio, 1989. (ISBN 0-88708-116-9) Grades 3-6

Not the story of the ugly duckling for beginners, this new translation by Anthea Bell is longer, fuller, and darker than most. Alan Marks's sophisticated illustrations are not designed to carry the text but to set mood and provoke definite reactions from readers. Drawn from various perspectives and depicting cruelty and violence as well as poignancy and great beauty, the paintings complement this thought-provoking rendition aimed at serious readers. WL

De Beaumont, Marie LePrince, retel. *Beauty and the Beast*. Translated from French by Richard Howard. Illustrated by Hilary Knight. 36 p. \$14.95. S&S, 1990. (ISBN 0-671-70720-5) Grades 3-6

This retelling of the classic tale about how Beauty's love transformed the Beast features an oversize format and watercolor renderings of stylized settings and relatively conventional characters. Too long to read aloud at one sitting, the lyric narrative contains much detail and is a useful vehicle for introducing some high-level vocabulary (e.g., "countenance," "reproach," "mustered"). An afterword by French writer Jean Cocteau comments on the origins and meaning of the tale, providing older students with an interesting complement to critical viewing of Cocteau's own film version. WL

Geras, Adele, retel. *My Grandmother's Stories: A Collection of Jewish Folk Tales*. Illustrated by Jael Jordan. 96 p. \$18.99. Knopf, 1990. (ISBN 0-679-90910-9) Grades 3-7

The Jewish oral tradition of storytelling for instruction as well as entertainment is delightfully recreated in this collection of ten tales. The storyteller is a wise and loving grandmother who regales her young granddaughter with marvelous stories about King Solomon, the fools of Chelm, and even family members in order to teach the girl valuable lessons. Intricate and evocative pen-and-ink illustrations (some with added color) are superb complements. A good resource for the study of Jewish culture. WL

Giblin, James Cross. *The Truth about Unicorns*. Illustrated by Michael McDermott. 113 p. \$14.89. HarperCollins, 1991. (ISBN 0-06-022479-7) Grades 5-12

Blending natural history, religious lore, and myth, Giblin narrates a history of the unicorn that inspires inquiry and stimulates imagination. The magic of this single-horned creature is chronicled in graceful prose. Legendary tales from China, India, and Europe are included with examples from nature as well as folklore. Reproduced prints, full-color tapestries, black-and-white photographs, and McDermott's drawings support this elegant volume. For group discussion, storytelling, creative writing, and research projects. Bibliography, index. (1992 ALA Notable Book) WL

Hamilton, Virginia, retel. *The Dark Way: Stories from the Spirit World*. Illustrated by Lambert Davis. 154 p. \$19.95. HarbraceJ, 1990. (ISBN 0-15-222340-1) Grades 5-10

Ranging from scary folktales to spirit-filled cautionary stories, this compelling collection draws on lore and legend from many countries, including India, Ireland, Russia, Greece, and Kenya. One narrative, "Rolling Rio, the Gray Man, and Death" was passed down by North Carolina fishermen who belonged to the first free generation of African Americans. Lambert Davis provides

eclectic illustrations to enhance the drama in these twenty-five tales. Each story concludes with a commentary on the source, the title, and any special significance. Brevity (two to five pages) and use of colloquial speech make many of these stories ideal for memorizing, dramatizing, and sharing with groups. Bibliography. Also recommended for high school collections where folklore is included in the study of world literature.

Hodges, Margaret, retel. *Hauntings: Ghosts and Ghouls from Around the World*. Illustrated by David Wenzel. 123 p. \$16.95. Little, 1991. (ISBN 0-316-36796-6) Grades 4-8

In this collection of horrific stories from various countries, "The Bunyip," "Joe Magarac," "The Golem," and "Grandfather Death," along with twelve other chilling tales, are retold in short, simple Hodges fashion, along with twelve other chilling tales. Ghosts, witches, and Death himself inhabit these fluid narratives, which are supported by intriguing ink and wash drawings. Simple words and descriptive details from the countries of origin are sprinkled throughout these tales, tempting readers to explore other cultures; brief headnotes for each story suggest mini lessons in geography or discussions of cross-cultural literature. WL

Hodges, Margaret, retel. *The Kitchen Knight: A Tale of King Arthur*. Illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman. unpag. \$14.95. Holiday, 1990. (ISBN 0-8234-0787-X) Grades 3-6

Based on "The Tale of Sir Gareth of Orkney," this title recounts the battles and bravery of Gareth, nephew of King Arthur. A knight of true valor, Sir Gareth rescues a damsel in distress and bests colorful opponents with names such as the Blue Knight, the Black Knight, and the Red Knight of the Red Plain. Trina Schart Hyman's richly detailed watercolors sweep around the bordered text to fill each page with a framed painting. A concluding note provides information on sources of the Arthurian tales. Enrichment for units on medieval Europe.

Joseph, Lynn. *A Wave in Her Pocket: Stories from Trinidad*. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. 51 p. \$13.95. Clarion Bks., 1991. (ISBN 0-395-54432-7) Grades 3-7

The first of these six wonderful stories introduces the voice of a storyteller who will delight readers and listeners with tales of colorful island characters and adventures that touch, frighten, and tickle. Tantie Delphine's greatest gift to her family (and readers) is her stories, which resound with the rhythms of island speech and capture the authenticity of Trinidad's legends. In dramatic scratchboard drawings, Brian Pinkney depicts characters and scenes central to these stories, beautifully visualizing Joseph's portrait of a vibrant culture. Afterword, glossary. (1992 ALA Notable Book) WL

Lagerlof, Selma. *The Changeling*. Translated from Swedish by Susanna Stevens. Illustrated by Jeanette Winter. unpag. \$15.99. Knopf, 1992. (ISBN 0-679-91035-2) Grades 3-6

Nobel prizewinner Selma Lagerlof has based her story of kindness rewarded on Scandinavian folklore concerning troll babies who are exchanged for human ones. A farmer's wife cares for such a changeling when her own little boy is stolen by a troll hag. Characterized by colorful, folk-style illustrations, this title could spark some interesting discussion on how the characters behave toward the troll child and toward each other. WL

Lewis, Richard, retel. *All of You Was Singing*. Illustrated by Ed Young. unpag. \$13.95. Atheneum, 1991. (ISBN 0-689-31596-1) Grades 3-6

In formal, sparse, poetic prose, Lewis retells the Aztec myth explaining how, after Creation, the sky sends the wind to the sun to bring music to the Earth. Illustrator Ed Young matches the text with abstractness in his pictures, which are placed in bordered boxes on patterned backgrounds and only become representational when the musicians of the sun reach Earth and "the silence opens." A respectful book which needs a careful introduction and which will work best with older readers and listeners. (1992 ALA Notable Book)

Lyons, Mary E., sel. *Raw Head, Bloody Bones: African-American Tales of the Supernatural*. 88 p. \$11.95. Scribner, 1991. (ISBN 0-684-19333-7) Grades 5-9

Born of an oral tradition that has entertained and taught listeners for generations, the stories in this collection resonate with the sounds of ghouls, ghosts, and monsters. An explanation of Gullah speech prepares readers to hear more authentic voices in these gruesome tales. While amusing listeners, the stories also challenge them to recognize valuable lessons about the dangers of excessive pride, greed, and misbehavior. The "cliffhanger" style used in many of the supernatural tales invites students to create their own endings. An excellent resource for developing skills in oral reading, listening, creative writing, and performing. Explanatory notes, bibliography, reading list.

Martin, Claire, retel. *The Race of the Golden Apples*. Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. unpag. \$13.89. Dial Bks. Young, 1991. (ISBN 0-8037-0249-3) Grades 3-6

The Dillons' intricate, pattern-filled illustrations highlight this retelling of the classic Greek myth about the race between Atalanta and Hippomenes. Featuring a clever, athletic heroine, this title would be useful for units introducing children to Greek culture and mythology.

Martinez, Alejandro Cruz, retel. *The Woman Who Outshone the Sun: The Legend of Lucia Zenteno/La mujer que brillaba aun mas que el sol: La leyenda de Lucia Zenteno*. Translated and adapted by Rosalma Zubizarreta, Harriet Rohmer, and David Schecter. Illustrated by Fernando Olivera. 32 p. \$13.95. Children's Bk. Press, 1991. (ISBN 0-89239-101-4) Grades 2-5

A stunning bilingual retelling of a Zapotec Indian legend from Mexico. Scorned and eventually driven from the village because of her beauty and strange, mysterious ways, the mythical Lucia Zenteno takes the river and its bounty with her. The villagers beg forgiveness and pledge to treat everyone with kindness. Wonderfully illustrated

by Fernando Olivera's brightly colored, folk-style paintings, this story will captivate middle readers with its magical characterizations and fantastic world reminiscent of works by Gabriel Garcia-Marquez. English and Spanish text appear on the same page. WL

Mayer, Marianna. *The Golden Swan*. Illustrated by Robert Sauber. 64 p. \$14.95. Bantam, 1990. (ISBN 0-553-07054-1) Grades 5-9

Mayer bases her original story of true love and destiny on the Sanskrit poem *The Mahabharata*. Readers are introduced to various Hindu gods (e.g., Yama, Kali, Andra) and beliefs along with the classic romance between King Nala and the lovely princess Damayanti. Robert Sauber's exotic paintings enrich Mayer's well-crafted narrative, which includes challenging vocabulary and evocative detail. Good supplement for social studies units on India and world cultures.

Mayer, Marianna, adapt. *The Spirit of the Blue Light*. Illustrated by Laszlo Gal. unpag. \$15.95. Macmillan, 1990. (ISBN 0-02-765350-1) Grades 3-6

Sparkling with eloquent prose and rich imagery, this tale of kindness rewarded is about a young soldier named Michael, whose aid to an old man brings him riches and the love of a beautiful princess. Every page glows with Laszlo Gal's superbly detailed paintings in soft, warm colors. Children can learn sophisticated vocabulary (e.g., "confound," "resigned," "phantom") in context as they listen to and read this enchanting story of adventure and romance.

Osborne, Mary Pope, retel. *American Tall Tales*. Illustrated by Michael McCurdy. 115 p. \$18.99. Knopf, 1991. (ISBN 0-679-90089-6) Grades 4-10

Osborne retells nine American tall tales, including "Davy Crockett," "Johnny Appleseed," and "Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind." Her lively prose and vibrant diction will appeal to the imaginations of both listeners and readers. Each tale is preceded by information about the hero which places the story in a historical context. Attractive color wood engravings complement

every narrative, illustrating the drama and humor. Good for oral reading, American history study, and research. Bibliography.

Paterson, Katherine, retel. *The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks*. Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. unp. \$14.95. Lodestar Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-525-67283-4) Grades 2-5

Based on a Japanese folktale, this story portrays the power of love, perseverance in adversity, and the rewards of goodness. When a cruel lord captures a magnificent mandarin drake, separating him from his mate, two servants risk their lives to set the duck free. Reflecting its origin, the story is told quietly in somewhat formal prose, and the plot proceeds at an ordered pace. The Dillons have chosen to use ukiyo-e, a style of Japanese painting and woodcuts originating in the 17th century, as the basis for their luminous, meticulously patterned paintings. An elegant addition to folktale collections. WL

Philip, Neil, sel. *Fairy Tales of Eastern Europe*. Illustrated by Larry Wilkes. 157 p. \$19.95. Clarion Bks., 1991. (ISBN 0-395-57456-0) Grades 4-9

Magic and morals blend in this collection of twenty-two tales from Eastern Europe. Philip's voice as a storyteller is captivating; his writing is filled with imaginative detail. Complementing the narratives are illustrations in many sizes, in pen and ink or watercolors. Brief historical background notes for each tale appear in a concluding section. For browsing, storytelling, study of world cultures, and independent reading. WL

Rappaport, Doreen, retel. *The Journey of Meng*. Illustrated by Yang Ming-Yi. unp. \$13.89. Dial Bks. Young, 1991. (ISBN 0-8037-0896-3) Grades 4-9

A formal retelling of a legend connected with the building of the Great Wall of China. This poignant story of Meng's love for and faithfulness to her husband is beautifully enhanced by Yang Ming-Yi's graceful watercolors. Elements of romance and magic lighten this tragic tale somewhat. Simply and eloquently, the narrative upholds courage and duty as highly admirable virtues in the Chinese cultural heritage.

Sanfield, Steve, retel. *The Feather Merchant and Other Tales of the Fools of Chelm*. Illustrated by Mikhail Magaril. 102 p. \$15.99. Orchard Bks., 1991. (ISBN 0-531-08558-9) Grades 3-8

Yiddish words and phrases, careful detail, and woodcut-style pen-and-ink drawings characterize the portrait of Jewish culture evoked in this collection of humorous stories. Merchants, beggars, and scholars are among these "fools" living in Chelm, where "seven and seven are eleven" and "a broken clock is still better than one that goes wrong." Delightful vehicles for storytelling and cultural insight. Afterword, glossary, bibliography.

San Souci, Robert D. *Sukey and the Mermaid*. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. unp. \$14.95. Four Winds, 1992. (ISBN 0-02-778141-0) Grades 2-5

Citing African American, Caribbean, and West African sources, San Souci presents a distinctive, beautifully written tale about young Sukey's relationship with the kindly mermaid Mama Jo. Powerfully matched by Pinkney's scratchboard and pastel illustrations, this unique story set in the South Carolina low country incorporates dialect into its formal prose, making it a good choice for reading aloud. Its use of fantasy elements comparable to tales of the Brothers Grimm (benevolent fairy godmother, mean stepparent, mistreated child, one true love) could generate some interesting discussion on storytelling traditions.

Schwartz, Howard, and Barbara Rush, sel. *The Diamond Tree: Jewish Tales from Around the World*. Illustrated by Uli Shulevitz. 120 p. \$16.89. HarperCollins, 1991. (ISBN 0-06-025243-X) Grades 3-7

These tales of giants, ghosts, witches, and enormous frogs will delight young imaginations as they teach basic values and morals, such as courage, honesty, wisdom, and sharing. For example, all the animals on the ark share their food and drink with Noah's giant helper Og, who had gathered them from around the world and saved them from the flood. Lovely full-color paintings heighten

the pleasure this collection offers. Notes concluding each tale identify sources of origin while detailed references at book's end direct readers to a treasure trove of additional writings. An excellent springboard for group reading and storytelling. (1992 ALA Notable Book) WL

Shepard, Aaron, retel. *Savitri: A Tale of Ancient India*. Illustrated by Vera Rosenberry. unp. \$15.95. Whitman, 1992. (ISBN 0-8075-7251-9) Grades 3-5

A fine retelling of one of India's oldest tales from *The Mahabharata*, this lovely book recounts the story of the beautiful and noble princess Savitri, who marries the doomed Prince Satyavan even though she is forewarned of his fate. Enhanced by detailed, stylized color illustrations, the romantic story features a clever and courageous heroine who must outwit a supernatural force (Yama, the god of death) in order to save her husband. WL

Thompson, Vivian L., retel. *Kawelo: Roving Chief*. Illustrated by Patricia A. Wozniak. 90 p. \$14.95. UH Pr., 1991. (ISBN 0-8248-1339-1) Grades 5-8

Thompson chronicles the adventures of Kawelo, a legendary young Hawaiian chief. Aspects of cultural heritage (e.g., poetic ritual chants, religion and prophecy, language, and weaponry) are woven into Thompson's straightforward retelling. Black-and-white illustrations in pen and ink provide evocative details to supplement the narrative. A useful resource that begs comparison with heroic lore from other cultures and provides insight into the cultural heritage of Hawaii. Glossary, bibliography.

Winthrop, Elizabeth, adapt. *Vasilissa the Beautiful: A Russian Folktale*. Illustrated by Alexander Koshkin. 40 p. \$15.89. HarperCollins, 1991. (ISBN 0-06-021663-8) Grades 3-6

Young readers will recognize several familiar story elements in this version of the classic Russian folktale: a beautiful young girl mistreated by a jealous stepmother and stepsisters, a carnivorous witch who lives deep in the forest, and a Tsar who falls instantly in love the

moment he sees the lovely Vasilissa. As he notes on a concluding page, Russian artist Alexander Koshkin depicts the costumes and surroundings of the seventeenth century in his detailed, evocative illustrations. For instruction and enrichment.

Wolkstein, Diane, retel. *Oom Razoom or Go I Know Not Where, Bring Back I Know Not What: A Russian Tale*. Illustrated by Dennis McDermott. unpag. \$14.88. Morrow, 1991. (ISBN 0-688-09417-1) Grades 1-6

Humor and glorious artwork distinguish this Russian folktale of the good-hearted archer Alexis and his magical wife Olga. Wolkstein's playful, storyteller's voice complements the adventurous narrative and imaginative illustrations. A charming read-aloud for studying Russian folklore and culture.

Yep, Laurence, retel. *Tongues of Jade*. Illustrated by David Wiesner. 194 p. \$14.89. HarperCollins, 1991. (ISBN 0-06-022471-1) Grades 3-7

Drawn from the oral tradition of nineteenth-century Chinese Americans, this collection of humorous and touching stories features animals, family relationships, and magic. Wiesner's handsome ink and wash illustrations precede each tale, suggesting the rich intrigue and adventure to follow. The stories are arranged in thematic groups such as "The Wild Heart" and "Beyond the Grave," each of which is introduced by an essay establishing the general historical and cultural context.

Yolen, Jane, retel. *Tam Lin*. Illustrated by Charles Mikolaycak. unpag. \$14.95. Harbrace, 1990. (ISBN 0-15-284261-6) Grades 3-9

Based on an old Scottish ballad, this romantic tale features a strong, determined heroine, an enchanted young man, and a powerful Fairy Queen. Sixteen-year-old Jennet MacKenzie vows to reclaim her ancestral castle from the Faeries, and in a mighty, magical struggle also releases handsome Tam Lin from captivity. Dramatic and beautiful paintings by Charles Mikolaycak embellish Yolen's lyrical narrative, which she concludes with instructive notes on the

ballad and its origins. A visually appealing title for studies of Scottish and/or ballads.

Young, Richard Alan and Judith Dockery, retels. *Stories from the Days of Christopher Columbus: A Multicultural Collection for Young Readers*. 160 p. \$17.95. August Hse., 1992. (ISBN 0-87483-199-7) Grades 5-8

The folktales, legends, and fables that make up this collection from cultures and countries affected by Columbus's voyages (e.g., Taino, Spain, Portugal) were "among those being told in the year 1492." Section titles such as "On Board the Pinta," "On the Aztec Mainland," and "In Genoa" serve to group the stories according to place of origin. Introductory passages for each story provide background information. Readers will find tales that sound like old favorites, as in "Don Juan Calderon Kills Seven," which is another version of "The Brave Little Tailor." A concluding chapter puts these stories into historical perspective and identifies "The Stories Behind the Stories." Delightful enrichment for social studies classes and small group storytelling. Pen-and-ink illustrations, glossary. WL

Books Reviewed in Other Sources

(See code explanation on page 13)

Andersen, Hans Christian. *Thumbelina*. Retold by James Riordan. Illustrated by Wayne Anderson. unpag. \$15.95. Putnam, 1991. (ISBN 0-399-21756-8) Grades 2-5. BKL KR SLJ

Cohen, Daniel. *Ghostly Tales of Love & Revenge*. 95p. \$14.95. Putnam, 1992. (ISBN 0-399-22117-4) Grades 5-12. SLJ

Hastings, Selina, retel. *Reynard the Fox*. Illustrated by Graham Percy. 76p. \$16.88. Tambourine Bks., 1991. (Available from Morrow) (ISBN 0-688-10156-9) Grades 2-5. BCCB BKL BW HB ZR* PW SLJ

Kimmel, Eric, retel. *The Four Gallant Sisters*. Illustrated by Tatyana Yuditskaya. unpag. \$15.95. H. Holt & Co., 1992. (ISBN 0-8050-1901-4) Grades 2-5. SLJ

Latimer, Jim, adapt. *The Irish Piper*. Illustrated by John O'Brien. unpag. \$13.95. Scribner, 1991. (ISBN 0-684-19130-X) Grades 3-4. BCCB BKL* HBG KR

Lattimore, Deborah Nourse, retel. *The Winged Cat: A Tale of Ancient Egypt*. Illustrated by the author. unpag. \$14.89. HarperCollins, 1992. (ISBN 0-06-023636-1) Grades 2-5. SLJ

San Souci, Robert D., retel. *Larger than Life: The Adventures of American Legendary Heroes*. Illustrated by Andrew Glass. 59p. \$16.00. Doubleday, 1991. (ISBN 0-385-24907-1) Grades 2-5. HBG SLJ

Smith, William and Carol Ra, comps. *Behind the King's Kitchen*. Illustrated by Jacques Hnizdovsky. 56p. \$18.95. Wordsong, 1992. (Available from Boyds Mills Pr.) (ISBN 1-56397-924-4) Grades 5-12. HB KR SLJ

Other Media

Storytelling in North America, Parts I and II. \$152.10. Natl. Geog., 1992. Grades 4-7

Part I: A Land Full of Stories/Stories of Native American Peoples/African-American Stories. 3 color filmstrips, 3 cassette tapes, catalog cards, guides. \$97 *Part II: Tall Tales/Stories in Song*. 2 color filmstrips, 2 cassette tapes, catalog cards, guides. \$72

This excellent two-part series of sound filmstrips explores the oral traditions of North American storytelling, with emphasis on Native and African American stories, tall tales, and story songs. Repeated and reinforced in each text are the basic story elements of plot, character, and setting. Music, a variety of voices, full-color photographs, paintings, and reproductions supplement and enhance the informative narration, which

includes at least two representative examples of each storytelling type. Guides provide synopses, objectives, background information, glossaries, discussion questions, and activities. Teachers can use this well-designed resource for lessons on folklore, creative writing, cultural heritage, and vocal music.

GRADES 9-12

Books

Bierhorst, John. *The Mythology of Mexico and Central America*. 239 p. \$14.95. Morrow, 1990. (ISBN 0-688-06721-2) Grades 9-12

Volume three in a series on the mythologies of North, South, and Central America, this scholarly work is divided into three parts. It begins with a perspective on the people of Mexico and Central America, then presents the tales themselves, and concludes with discussion of how myths are built by a people and their ever-evolving history. The tales are translated from the original ancestral languages, and explanations for unfamiliar terms appear in brackets within the text. Illustrations include maps and pictures of artifacts from locations where the myths originated. A comprehensive resource for supplementing study of world cultures or world history. Glossary, notes, references, indices. WL

Erdoes, Richard, ed. *Tales from the American Frontier*. 443 p. \$25.00. Pantheon, 1991. (Available from Random) (ISBN 0-394-51682-6) Grades 9-12

For teachers and media specialists who want to read aloud or tell stories from the American frontier of the 1800s, this large collection is a wonderful resource full of the language of the times. Divided into sections prefaced by brief, informative introductions, the stories are meticulously researched and documented. Silhouette illustrations like those popular during the 1800s complement these tales of Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, Calamity Jane, and a host of less familiar characters. Selectors should note the presence of occasional stories with an adult slant

(e.g., sexual prowess) and with witches, devils, and elements of the macabre. A supplement for studying American history and the tall tale genre.

Minghella, Anthony. *Jim Henson's The Storyteller*. Illustrated by Darcy May. 179 p. \$30. Knopf, 1991. (ISBN 0-394-58256-X) Grades 6-12

Based on Jim Henson's Emmy Award-winning television series, this collection of nine tales draws on European folk traditions. Superb illustrations blend the facts of each story with visual imagination. The first-person voice of an unnamed storyteller is interspersed among these original tales, which echo other familiar ones. For example, "Hans My Hedgehog" has elements of "Beauty and the Beast" in its story of a bewitched boy, half human and half hedgehog, whose enchantment is broken by a princess's love. Magic, witches, trolls, and devils are featured in several of these well-written, richly worded narratives. For pleasure reading and study of the folk genre.

Ramanujan, A. K., ed. *Folktales from India: A Selection of Oral Tales from Twenty-two Languages*. 348 p. \$24. Pantheon, 1991. (Available from Random) (ISBN 0-394-55479-5) Grades 8-12

Culled from a variety of sources, this intriguing collection of 110 folktales from the oral tradition of Indian storytelling is arranged in cycles that include several types (e.g., male- or female-centered tales, stories about animals or demons, humorous narratives). Ramanujan defines and characterizes each category in his introduction, referring to specific titles and providing much information about the storytellers. A few ink drawings illustrate the lengthy text, and a map of India displays the geographical locations for the twenty-two languages. Scholarly source notes conclude the compendium, which is as entertaining as it is insightful and informative about Indian culture and beliefs. WL

Yeats, W. B. *Fairy Tales of Ireland*. Illustrated by P. J. Lynch. 160 p. \$16.95. Delacorte, 1990. (ISBN 0-385-30243-5) Grades 6-12

Many of the legends and folktales in this collection feature Gaelic speech and encounters with fairies. Selected from Yeats's *Fairy and Folk Tales of the Irish Peasantry* and *Irish Fairy Tales*, these twenty stories are complemented by Lynch's dramatic, evocative silhouettes and pen-and-ink illustrations. Concluding notes add useful insights and information. A good resource for world literature classes and for studying Ireland.

Professional

Books

MacDonald, Margaret Read, retel. *Look Back and See: Twenty Lively Tales for Gentle Tellers*. Illustrated by Roxane Murphy. 179 p. \$35. Wilson, 1991. (ISBN 0-8242-0810-2)

For storytellers looking for engaging tales with little in the way of violence, this multicultural collection fits the bill. Accompanying each spirited retelling of folktales from such countries as Siberia, Palestine, Egypt, and Japan, MacDonald provides instructive notes on presentation, background, and type. Song stories (with some musical accompaniment), audience participation tales, and stories that teach are included, along with a chart suggesting age appropriateness (preschool to adult) and a list of whole language uses. Pen-and-ink illustrations, bibliography.

Sierra, Judy and Robert Kaminski. *Multicultural Folktales: Stories to Tell Young Children*. 126 p. \$26.50 paper. Oryx Pr., 1991. (ISBN 0-89774-688-0)

Sierra presents twenty-five stories and rhymes from folk traditions around the world. Included for each tale is its country of origin; an introduction explaining special language features, the type of tale represented, and links to stories from other countries; the text itself; suggestions for telling the story and for using flannel boards or puppets; ways that children can participate; and titles of picture books with similar themes or patterns. Three stories are also printed in Spanish. Traceable

flannel board figures are provided for thirteen stories. A handy, nuts-and-bolts tool, especially for using flannel boards to help young children focus on and participate in stories.

Books Reviewed in Other Sources

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Books listed have received favorable reviews in one or more of the following sources. The reviewing sources and their code letters are:

Book World - BW
 Booklist - BKL
 Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books - BCCB
 Horn Book - HB
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(800/367-6770)

Natl. Geog. - National Geographic
Educational Services, P.O. Box 98019,
Washington, DC 20090 (800/368-2728)

Orchard Bks. - Orchard Books, Division
of Franklin Watts, Inc., 387 Park Ave. S.,
New York, NY 10016 (800/843-3749)

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