This booklet contains lists of folk and fairy tales, stories to be read aloud, and books of poetry for young children. It includes references to children's stories from many countries, stories of heroes and saints, and stories for special occasions. A section of source materials for the storyteller is also included along with subject and author-title indexes. (SET)
A list of stories to tell and to read aloud
STORIES

A list of stories to tell and to read aloud

Compiled by ELLIN GREENE
Storytelling and Group Work Specialist

New York
The New York Public Library
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The cover design was made especially for this list
BY FRITZ EICHENBERG
Foreword

It is almost forty years since the First Edition of *Stories* was compiled by Mary Gould Davis, and almost sixty years since the Storytellers of The New York Public Library began to weave their spell of enchantment over the children of New York. In a city so characterized by change, storytelling still retains its magic. Children still delight in the absurdities of Carl Sandburg, appreciate the clever wit of Howard Pyle, and respond to the sensitive beauty of Hans Christian Andersen. There is joyous exuberence in the cry, “Here comes the Story Lady!” Adults, too, are coming to a greater appreciation of the art, and to a new realization of its values for the young.

This List is not definitive either as a whole or in any of its parts. Its purpose is to introduce the beginning storyteller to folk and fairy literature which children have acclaimed, and to lead him to source material which will help him develop his art. Some of the stories in the Fifth Edition have been dropped because the books are out of print. In some cases editions have been changed because more recent ones seem to have greater value for the Story Hour. Picture books have been included only when the story can stand without pictures. A main entry has been listed from an out of print book when it is considered the best version of the
story but always a secondary entry has been listed from a book in print which includes the same story. In answer to many requests, the Name Index has been expanded to include the titles of the collections from which the stories have been selected.

The “For Reading Aloud” section includes modern and traditional poetry as well as stories. Poetry may be used to set the stage for the Story Hour or to add variety to the program.

The section “For the Storyteller” includes recordings by well-known storytellers or of authors reading from their own works. While a recording never can substitute for the living person, the beginning storyteller can learn much about timing, voice control, manner of presentation, etc., by listening to the recordings of accomplished storytellers.

The editor gratefully acknowledges the special help of the four storytellers who have worked on this revision: Maria Cimino, Katherine Lutz, Anne Pellowski and Mary Strang. She also wishes to acknowledge the encouragement and guidance of Augusta Baker whose comprehensive knowledge of folk literature is reflected in this list.

Ellin Greene

August, 1965
Stories

"These tales were made not for reading, but for telling. Be you not content with reading them; tell them and realize a new joy, the joy of storytelling, which surpasses as far the pleasure of story-reading as the eating of a good dinner surpasses the sniffing of it."

From The Well o' The World's End


How tea broke the spell of Ah Tcha's drowsiness, and brought him good fortune.


The magic of this wonderful tale continues to hold all children spellbound.


Instead of being shy in front of the King, Pepita boldly outwits him with her cleverness.


A favorite tale from the Arabian Nights.


Nobody ever laughs now at Brother Turkey's bald head because it was he who finally outsmarted Anansi.


Anansi "liked to outwit people... and he had to keep thinking of new ways to get something for nothing."

Anansi's Hat-Shaking Dance. In: The Hat-Shaking Dance and Other Tales from the Gold Coast, by Harold Courlander with Albert Kofi Prempeh. Harcourt, Brace and World.

"How Anansi got his bald head, and why he hides in the tall grass." A good introduction to the Anansi tales is "All Stories are Anansi's," also in this collection.
The strange things that happened to Andrew Coffey one cold March night.

"Everybody in the world that sees the apple will long for it, but nobody in the world can pluck it but you."

"Shake, shake, hazel-tree,
Gold and silver over me!"

Other versions appear in most collections of the Brothers Grimm called variously Ashputtel, Archenputtel or Cinderella.

Baba Yaga and the Little Girl With the Kind Heart. In: Old Peter's Russian Tales, by Arthur Ransome. Nelson Ltd.
"... take care. The old woman in the hut is own sister to Baba Yaga, the bony-legged, the witch."

"O But the Baker's Daughter is beautiful! ... But the Baker's Daughter is proud."

"Balder was the fairest and most beloved of all the gods. He was wise in judgment, gracious in speech, and all his deeds were pure and good."

A moving legend of the rebirth of the Buddha.

"The Bean Boy came whistling into the patio of the palace, tripping over his red and green shoe strings ... ."

"You alone, dearest Beauty, judged me neither by my looks nor by my talents, but by my heart alone."

"Should it be accounted a crime in a bee, a little ignorant bee, if straying after her eyes' desire, she suddenly longed after so beauteous and lovely a nose ... ."

“. . . and the bee began to play the harp, and the mouse and the bum-clock stood on their hind legs, got hold of each other, and began to dance.”

BILLY BEG and the BULL. In: In Chimney Corners, by Seumas MacManus. Doubleday. o. p. Also in: Giants and Witches and a Dragon or Two, selected by Phyllis Fenner. Knopf.

“The Queen gave Billy a bull that he was very fond of, and it was just as fond of him.” An Irish variant of Jack the Giant Killer with a dragon thrown in.

BINNORIE. In: English Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.

First sung by minstrels as a medieval ballad, “Binnorie” retains its power to hold any audience.


“Far have I sought for thee, Long have I wrought for thee, Near am I brought to thee, Dear Duke o’ Norroway, Wilt thou say nought to me?”

BLACK MAGIC. In: Three Golden Oranges, by Ralph Steele Boggs and Mary Gould Davis. McKay.

How Benito, the magician’s apprentice, outwitted his cruel master in a shape-changing contest.


“The Emperor had decided that only the man who found and brought back the blue rose should marry his daughter.”


In Walter de la Mare’s Tales Told Again (Knopf), a slight change of emphasis brings out all the mystery and suspense inherent in this tale.

THE BOLD HEROES of HUNGRY HILL. In: The Bold Heroes of Hungry Hill and Other Irish Folk Tales, retold by Seumas MacManus. Ariel.

The lively adventures of Jack and his bold friends, an ass, a dog, a cat, and a cock, and how they set three wrongs to right.

How Pu-nia slew the sharks, so that his people might dive to the lobster caves for their food.


"Whenever he found himself alone, he drew cats... He drew them because he could not really help it." A good Halloween story.

THE BRAVE LITTLE TAILOR. In: The House in the Wood and Other Old Fairy Stories, with drawings by L. Leslie Brooke.Warne.

One of the favorite tales from the Brothers Grimm, called in some editions The Gallant Tailor, The Valiant Little Tailor or Seven at One Blow.

BREAD - FREE. In: Once the Mullah. Persian Folk Tales, retold by Alice Geer Kelsey. McKay.

In this story of the Mullah — that kindly, fun-loving Moslem priest, teacher, and judge — his little joke succeeds too well.


Use with this the handsome picture book, The Traveling Musicians by Hans Fischer (Harcourt, Brace and World).


"But watch out for the water kelpie, lest he do her more harm for he's a queer creature always full of wicked mischief and nobody knows what he may do."


Joel Chandler Harris calls this the most humorous of all the Negro legends. Miss Brown's adaptation does not weaken it, but she makes it ever so much easier to tell.


Lishka, the sly old fox, promises Budulinek a ride on her tail if he will open the door. "Smolochek," in the same book, is also the story of a little boy who opened the door.

THE BUN. In: Picture Tales from the Russian, by Valery Carrick. Dufour. Also in: The Buried Treasure and Other Picture Tales, selected by Eulalie Steinmetz Ross. Dufour.
"'I'm Mr. Bun, I'm Mr. Bun, I was scraped from the sides and swept from the floor of the bin . . . .'" Similar to the Norwegian story of "The Pancake," by Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen, in her *East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon* (Row, Petersen) o. p.


There is poetry and drama in the story of the Moon imprisoned in the bog by the evil spirits of darkness.

**BUTTERCUP.** In: *True and Untrue*, by Sigrid Undset. Knopf.

"'Here comes a great big witch, with her head 'under her arm, and a bag at her back.'"

The Kittelsen illustrations for "Butterball" in *Norwegian Folk Tales* (Viking) are full of droll humor.


"'There was never a Queen like Balkis, From here to the wide world's end; For Balkis talked to a butterfly As you would talk to a friend.'"


The *Decameron* of Boccaccio is the source of this amusing tale of the gullible Calandrino and the three clever thieves.

**CAP O' RUSHES.** In: *English Folk and Fairy Tales*, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.

"'I had a daughter. And I asked her how much she loved me. And she said 'As much as fresh meat loves salt.' And I turned her from my door, for I thought she didn't love me.'"

**CAT AND MOUSE KEEP HOUSE.** In: *Tales from Grimm*, freely translated and illustrated by Wanda Gág. Coward-McCann.

There are many translations of "Cat and Mouse Keep House," but Wanda Gág's is the best for the storyteller.


A funny story about the cat who ate everything in his way, including "a king, a queen, his men-at-arms, and all his elephants . . . ."


"... So he took a piece of sausage and stuck it on a fork, and went and poked it up against the bear's nose, screaming out: 'Pussy, will you have some sausage?'"

"... The cat keeps his side of the bargain, too. But when he has done that, and be 'seen times, and when the moon gets up and the night comes, he is the cat that walks by himself, and all places are alike to him."


A simple story to tell at Jewish festival time.


"'Nay, then' said Chanticleer. 'Never again shall you with your flattery get me to sing with my eyes closed.' "A Canterbury tale with pictures as handsome as a medieval herbal.

CHILDE ROWLAND. In: English Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.

"'Strike then, Bogle, if thou dar'st,' shouted out Childe Rowland, and rushed to meet him with his good brand that never yet did fail."


"Tick-i-pu was a small grub of a thing, but he had a true love of Art deep down in his soul."


The story of the Nativity for young children.


"Every first of April the cuckoo came tapping at their doors with the golden leaf to Gifts and the green to Spare."


"... to this day, on Christmas Eve, we cover the Christmas Tree with 'angel's hair' in memory of the little grey spider and his silken web."
CINDERELLA, by Charles Perrault, with pictures by Marcia Brown. Scribner.

The beloved story in a charming French setting. Walter de la Mare makes it a Twelfth Night revel in his Tales Told Again (Knopf). The Italian version, "Cenerentola," may be found in Minceli's Old Neapolitan Fairy Tales (Knopf).


How Claus went out into the wide world, how he cut himself a rod of witch hazel, and how he had great good fortune because of it.

CLEVER ELSIE. In: Tales from Grimm, freely translated and illustrated by Wanda Gág. Coward-McCann.

Like "The Three Sillies" by Joseph Jacobs, Elsie's absurd line of reasoning is irresistibly funny.

CLEVER GRETSEL. In: Tales Told Again, by Walter de la Mare. Knopf. Also in: Big Music, by Mary Noel Leecker. Viking.

"Then, 'Dear me,' she sighed to herself, looking at the chicken, 'that one wing left looks like another wing missing!' So she ate up the other."


"If she's as comely as she is clever, I think I'd like to marry her. Tell her to come to see me, but she must come neither by day nor by night, neither riding nor walking, neither dressed nor undressed."


"Maybe Peter was a fool; but as the saying goes, never a fool tumbles out of a tree but he lights on his toes."


An amusing Italian folk tale about Maria who learned how to keep house.


Tony Sarg's illustrations are just right for this rhythmic folk tale for young children. A rhymed version by Eudora Bumstead is in Four and Twenty Blackbirds (Lippincott).


An old Southern tale about owls who turn into witches on Halloween.

Each of the sons argued his right to possess the wonderful cow-tail switch.

COYOTE’S NEW HAIRDO. In: Down from the Lonely Mountain, by Jane Louise Curry. Harcourt, Brace and World.

Coyote discovers that vanity leads to disaster when he sets his hair with pitch.


The deep faith of the Breton folk is in the story of Bo’Bossu, the hunchback.

CUPID AND PSYCHE. In: Mythology, by Edith Hamilton. Little, Brown.

“So all came to a most happy end. Love and the Soul (for that is what Psyche means) had sought and, after sore trials, found each other; and that union could never be broken.”

THE DANCING JUG. In: The Witches’ Ride and Other Tales from Costa Rica, told into English by Lupe De Osma. Morrow.

“‘Gracious! A jug that dances! That isn’t at all as it should be!’ he gasped.”

THE DANCING KETTLE. In: The Dancing Kettle and Other Japanese Folk Tales, retold by Yoshiko Uchida. Harcourt, Brace and World.

“Out popped a head on top. Then out came two arms, and finally two legs. With a ker-plunk it jumped right off the table and began to dance around the room.”


“‘I’m too fine for this world,’ she exclaimed as she sat in the gutter.”

DAVY CROCKETT, STRONG BUT QUIRKY. In: Yankee Thunder, by Irwin Shapiro. Messner.

The legendary story of Davy Crockett’s miraculous growth begins in this chapter and continues in “Whittled Down to Man-Size.” His fantastic hunting prowess is in “The Ways of the Woods.”


“Call her Deirdre, for that name has the sound of sorrow, and sorrow will come by her to all Ulster.”

A very cooperative devil helps a poor shoemaker regain the gifts which a covetous innkeeper stole from him.

DOCTOR KNOW-IT-ALL. In: Tales from Grimm, freely translated and illustrated by Wanda Gág. Coward-McCann.

Another variant of this amusing story is "Doctor and Detective, Too" in 13 Danish Tales, retold by Mary C. Hatch (Harcourt, Brace and World).

THE DRAGON AND HIS GRANDMOTHER. In: Tales from Grimm, freely translated and illustrated by Wanda Gág. Coward-McCann.

"She did not like her grandson very well, and she did like the merry soldier-lad; so when she heard his story she took pity on him."


"Well, all I know about him is, that he lives in the castle that lies East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon, and thither you'll come, late or never . . . ."


"He would wait until the engine bell rang and the Engineer put his hand on the throttle. Then he would throw back his head, open his mouth, shut his eyes and say, 'Ah — ah — ah —' and 'CHOO' would say the engine."


"In the High and Far-Off times the Elephant, O Best Beloved, had no trunk."

ELsie PIDDLE Skips In Her Sleep, by Eleanor Farjeon. In her: Martin Pippin in the Daisy-Field. Lippincott. Also in: Told Under the Magic Umbrella, selected by the Literature Committee of the Association for Childhood Education. Macmillan.

The children will leave Story Hour chanting Elsie Piddock's skipping rope rhyme: "Andy Spandy Sugardy Candy, French Almond Rock! Bread-and-butterforyoursupper'sallyourmother'sgot!"

THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES, by Hans Christian Andersen, translated and illustrated by Erik Blegvad. Harcourt, Brace and World.

"But he has nothing on!" said a little child."

With the aid of a fish, a fox, and a raven, the Tsar's youngest son wins a magic horse and an enchanted princess.


"But no sooner had she puckered her lips, than out came the words, 'Fiddiwaw, fiddiwaw, fiddiwaw, vaw, vaw,' and she couldn't stop saying it, and she couldn't make the fire burn."


A Dance Macabre from the Isle of Man.


"'After all, findings are keepings — when they are found in your own wooden chest.'"

The Fir Tree, by Hans Christian Andersen. In his: It's Perfectly True and Other Stories, translated from the Danish by Paul Leys-sac. Harcourt, Brace and World.

"'... and the more the tree told, the more clearly did it remember everything, and thought, 'Those really were quite happy days ...'"


"'... smelling is not eating, there is no nourishment in it!'

'And is there warmth in a fire so distant that it can hardly be seen?'


This story, and "Tsarevitch Ivan, the Fire Bird, and the Gray Wolf" in Russian Wonder Tales, by Pest Wheeler (Yoseloff), are taken from Afanasiev. Both have elements used by Igor Stravinsky in his "Fire Bird" Ballet.


"'Manye, Manye, Tempie Tee,
Fishye, Fishye in the sea
Deshill my willful wife
Does not want my way of life.'"

Kurt Wiese's illustrations are inseparable from this humorous tale of five remarkable brothers who "all looked exactly alike."

The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins, by Dr. Seuss. Vanguard Press.

"In the beginning, Bartholomew Cubbins didn't have five hundred hats. He had only one hat."


"Belita — Felipa — they dance well together —
Belita — Felipa; now answer me whether
You know this Felipa — this animalita.
If you answer right, then you marry Belita."


"And the Lion said: 'Little. Hare what made you say the Earth was falling in?'"

There are many versions of this well-known story, but Miss Shedlock's is the only one that reflects the true spirit of the stories of the Buddha.


"The story of a little mouse who was a princess." Other variants are "The Mouse Bride" in James Cloyd Bowman's Tales from a Finnish Tape (Albert Whitman) and "The Mouse Princess" in Barbara Picard's French Legends, Tales and Fairy Stories (Walck).


In Courlander's Cow-Tail Switch (Holt, Rinehart and Winston) the Ashanti story is called "Hungry Spider and the Turtle"; in Afanasyev's Russian Fairy Tales (Pantheon) o. p., it is "The Fox and the Crane," but the moral is the same: "One bad turn deserves another."


"Youngest daughter of the King,
Open the door for me!"

The best of all retellings of this famous story.

A scientist's search for the bones of giants leads to a confrontation with the ghosts of the giants themselves.

The Giant Who Had No Heart In His Body. In: East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon, retold by Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen. Row, Peterson o.p. Also in: East of the Sun and West of the Moon, illustrated by Tom Vroman. Macmillan.

"Far, far away in a lake lies an island; on that island stands a church; in that church is a well; in that well swims a duck; in that duck there is an egg; and in that egg there lies my heart."


"Roll, roll round bread roll, Bring me my brothers nine Men of mother's and mine."


"And all night long he sat by the well shouting into it: 'Goats, are you there? Goats, are you there?"


A ghost story that ends with a good scare — and then laughter. The version in Mr. Botkin's volume is from Mark Twain's essay, "How to Tell a Story."


Although most boys and girls know the four folk tales in this collection, Leslie Brooke's pictures give them new life and new meaning.


"'Good day to you, golden lynx!' replied the prince. 'A nice pickle I have got myself into through letting you escape!"

Gone Is Gone, retold and illustrated by Wanda Gág. Coward-McCann.

"The story of a man who wanted to do housework."

A version to use with younger children is that of Hans Fischer (Harcourt, Brace and World) illustrated with pictures as gay and irresistible as the rascals themselves.


"Early next morning as she and Conrad drove their geese through the gate, she said as she went by,

'O Fatada, dost thou hang there?"


A legend from the Talmud about a most extraordinary bird, a brave shepherd, and a Princess imprisoned in a tower.


A haunting story of love and enchantment.

Gudbrand-on-the-Hills. In: East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon, retold by Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen. Row, Peterson. o, p. Also in: Norwegian Folk Tales, from the collection of Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and Jørgen Moe. Viking.

One of the Norwegian folk tales recorded by Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen. Hans Christian Andersen's version is called "What the Goodman Does Is Sure To Be Right."


"...I can see all the ugliness and all the misery of my city and though my heart is made of lead yet I cannot chose but weep."
THE HARE AND THE HEDGEHOG. In: Animal Stories, chosen by
Walter de la Mare. Scribner.
The old fable retold with humor and charm.

THE HEEDLEY KOW. In: More English Folk and Fairy Tales, by
Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.
A pooka plays his pranks on a blithe old country woman.

HENNY PENNY. In: Chimney Corner Stories, collected and retold
by Veronica S. Hutchinson. Putnam.
This is the version little children prefer.

HERDING THE KING'S HARES. In: True and Untrue, by Sigrid
Undset. Knopf.
A kind heart, a whistle, and a knowledge of human nature win for
Espen Ashlad the princess and half the kingdom.

HEREAFTERTHIS. In: More English Folk and Fairy Tales, by
Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.
"I am Hereafterthis," said the robber. 'I have come for the bag of
grains.'"

HIDDEN LAINA OR THE GOLDEN SHIP. In: Tales from a Finnish
Tupa, by James Cloyd Bowman and Margery Bianco. Albert
Whitman.
"He took a purple berry from his left pocket, and as the princess
chushed the berry between her teeth a pair of monstrous pronged horns
grew out of her head, as heavy and large as the horns of a wild elk."

HINA, THE WOMAN IN THE MOON. In: Legends of Hawaii, by
Padraic Colum. Yale University Press.
"Her husband came and asked her where she was going, because she
carried her calabash he knew she was going far. 'I am going to the Moon,
to a place I can rest myself,' she said."

THE HOBYAHS. In: More English Folk and Fairy Tales, by Jo-
seph Jacobs. Putnam.
"... and one night the Hojayahs came and said, 'Hojayah! Hojayah!
Hobjayah! Tear down the hempstalks, eat up the old man and woman, and
carry off the little girl!'"

Viking.
An austere and beautiful Christmas story of a village in the Dolomites
that sank beneath the waters of a lake.

THE HOLY NIGHT, by Selma Lagerlöf. In: The Animals' Christ-
mas, by Anne Thaxter Eaton. Viking.
A quiet, moving story of Joseph's search for coals to warm Mary and
the Child on the first Christmas Eve.

“So the old honey gatherer died, because the selfish sons each thought more of his own reputation than of his father’s.”

A HORNED GOAT. In: The Jolly Tailor and Other Fairy Tales Translated from the Polish, by Lucia Merecka Borski and Kate B. Miller. McKay.

“‘I, a hairy, horned Goat! Whoever touches me will fare badly! I will stamp him with my feet, I will beat him with my tail, and I’ll eat him up!’


A Puerto Rican tale about Juan Bobo who finds the perfect olive flower and wins a princess.


“‘Why should anybody want to buy such a cap as that?’ said the king.
‘Because,’ said Boots, ‘it is a fooling cap and the only one in all of the world.’”


One of the most absurd of Carl Sandburg’s nonsense stories.


“Now Dame Margery Twist knew butter from cheese, as the saying is.”

HOW MANY DONKEYS? In: Once the Hodja, by Alice Geer Kelsey. McKay.

“‘Oh, Hodja Effendi!’ Mustapha laughed. ‘When you are counting your brothers, why, oh why, do you not count the brother on whom you are riding?’”


“He couldn’t say anymore that there was nothing could daunt him. Not after he’d met the ghosts of the old kings in the glen.”

From an unusually good collection of ghost stories.


The hero of this story of a sky-scraping church is a Mexican folk character, half god and half human. Jean Charlot’s illustrations add strength and atmosphere.

"And the Camel said 'Humph!' again; but no sooner had he said it than he saw his back, that he was so proud of puffing up and puffing up into a great big lolloping humph."


"For even the blessed Saints cannot give wisdom to those who will have none of it, and that is the truth."


"Them that takes cakes Which the Parsee-man bakes Makes dreadful mistakes.


"...and he swallowed the shipwrecked Mariner, and the raft he was sitting on, and his blue canvas breeches, and the suspenders (which you must not forget), and the jackknife ..."


"The Grey Goose goes out into the wide world, where she and a discontented Sausage meet the Cock and the Fox."


"In one corner of the corn-crib ... she had a secret, a big, round squash, a fat, yellow squash, a rich squash all spotted with spots of gold."

HUDDEN AND DUDDEN AND DONALD O'NEARY. In: Celtic Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.

Variants of this story can be found in European and Eastern folklore. The action is swift-moving and lively; the telling should be equally so.


"His teeth ached for a single bite and his jaws began to work up and down over their painful emptiness. The pilging grew browner and tenderer, and a thousand little fat bubbles, like tiny pearls, leaped and danced and disappeared, and sprang up again on the smooth surface of the roast."

THE HUNGRY OLD WITCH. In: Tales from Silver Lands, by Charles J. Finger. Doubleday.

"She was a witch, she was very old, and she was always hungry;"

"So it is said: 'Too foolish and too clever, they are brothers.'"

THE INDIAN CINDERELLA. In: Glooskap's Country and Other Indian Tales, by Cyrus Macmillan. Walck.

"And since that day the leaves of the aspen have always trembled, and they shiver in fear at the approach of Strong Wind, it matters not how softly he comes, for they are still mindful of his great power and anger because of their lies and their cruelty to their sister long ago."

IT'S PERFECTLY TRUE! by Hans Christian Andersen. In his: It's Perfectly True and Other Stories, translated from the Danish by Paul Leysac. Harcourt, Brace and World.

"She had heard and not heard, as one must do in this world for the sake of peace and quiet. But she couldn't resist telling it to her neighbor on the other side."


"Fee-fi-foto-fum,
I smell the blood of an Englishman,
Be he alive, or be he dead
I'll have his bones to grind my bread."

JACK THE GIANT KILLER. In: English Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.


"A barber and a jackal once struck up a great friendship with each other, and it might have lasted to this day had not the jackal been too clever for the barber, and too fond of playing tricks upon him."

JOHNNY-CAKE. In: Fairy Tales from the British Isles, retold by Amabel Williams-Ellis. Warne.

The story of "The Gingerbread Boy," as it is told in England. Joseph Jacob's Johnny Cake, illustrated by Emma L. Brock (Putnam), is a picture book version of the same tale.


How Mr Joseph Nitechka mended the rent in the sky and so became king of Pacanów.

José discovers the figs that make noses grow or shrink.

JUAN BOBO AND THE QUEEN'S NECKLACE, by Pura Belpre. Warne.

"I know where the pearl necklace is, your majesty. But in order to get it you must have a roast goose for dinner...""


The origin of the Festival of Channukah.


The old French legend has been adapted and illustrated by Barbara Cooney in The Little Juggler (Hastings House).

KALEVALA. THE SINGING CONTEST. In: Heroes of the Kalevala, by Babette Deutsch. Messner.

"I will sing him into stone shoes.
I will sing him into wooden trousers.
I will sing a rock onto his shoulders
and a stone onto his heart."

KANTCHIL'S LIME PIT. In: Kantchil's Lime Pit and Other Stories from Indonesia, by Harold Courlander. Harcourt, Brace and World.

Kantchil, the tiny mouse deer, is one of the best loved characters in Indonesian folklore.

KARI WOODENCOAT. In: The Golden Lynx and Other Tales, selected by Augusta Baker. Lippincott.

"She asked for a place in the kitchen, and said her name was Kari Woodencoat."


Older girls especially like this tale of a shrew who outwits the devil. A Spanish version is "Don Demonio's Mother-in-law," in Three Golden Oranges, by Ralph Steele Boggs and Mary Gould Davis (McKay).


How Buddha reborn saves the monkeys from the King's archers.


The awakening of King Arthur and his knights from their long sleep in the Welsh cave.

A deceptively simple story which, when told with skill, can be chillingly eerie.

KING O'TOOLE AND HIS GOOSE. In: Celtic Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.

A hilarious story about keeping your word.


How the drummer boy, with the help of King Stork, outwits the wicked one-eyed witch and reforms the beautiful but cruel princess.


This story of Jack who made the king see, "You're a liar," is retold from the author's In Chimney Corners (Doubleday) o p.


A cumulative tale of an ungrateful chick who swallowed everything in sight.

THE LAD WHO WENT TO THE NORTH WIND. In: East of the Sun and West of the Moon and Other Tales. Illustrated by Tom Vroman. Macmillan.

"Cloth, spread yourself;" "Ram, coin money;" "Stick, lay on."


A romantic story, full of knights and tournaments, and damsels in distress.


"But to all of them Lambkin replied, with a little frisk:"

"To Granny's house I go,
Where I shall fatter grow,
Then you can eat me so."


"Brother, you must go to the Princess. Tell her the story that begins: In my young days when I was an old, old man . . ."

The story of the old woman who brings gifts to the children in Italy on Twelfth Night in memory of the Christ Child whom she could not find 2,000 years ago.


A folk parody on the Irish sagas of Finn MacCool and Cuchulain.


The Robber Mother shows Brother Hans how the forest blossoms on the night of the divine birth.


"Pride goeth before the fall."


A delicious mixture of fun, realism, and fantasy.

THE LITTLE HUMPBACKED HORSE. In: Russian Wonder Tales, by Post Wheeler. Yoseloff.

Through the devotion and aid of the little humpbacked horse Little Fool Ivan accomplishes the impossible and wins the beautiful Tsaritsa.


How a clever jackal outwits a greedy alligator.


One of Andersen's most beautiful stories of love and sacrifice.


"Come, my empty stomach, come, my empty stomach, eat up all the bees." The stomach of the Little Rooster is as capacious as that of Half-chick in Ruth Sawyer's Picture Tales from Spain (Lippincott).

"‘The man was right; it really is much more fun living in Wales than living in houses.’” Never nonsense that progresses in a logical matter-of-fact sort of way.


How Loki stole the apples of youth from Iduna, the fair goddess of springtime, and how they were finally returned to Asgard.


How Bobo, the simpleton, set out to find the Princess’ lost half-hour, and recovered a lost reputation, a lost temper and a lost princess as well.

THE MAGIC BALL. In: Tales from Silver Lands, by Charles J. Finger. Doubleday.

“Now with cold grows faint her breath,
Fire will conquer frosted death.”

A chilling story of how the power of the cold-eyed witch was shattered forever.

THE MAGIC FEATHER DUSTER, by Will and Nicolas. Harcourt, Brace and World.

“Near the cane stool a house on stilts where an old woman lived with her cats. There was always a cat going up the ladder and a cat going down the ladder and half a dozen cats doting on the roof.”


“They had nineteen children and were always having more. Seventeen of these children took care of the baby, and Alicia, the eldest, took care of them all.”


There is humor and wisdom in this story of a princess who warded the moon.

THE MASH CRONE’S BREW, by Ib Spang Olsen. Abingdon.

“And when the marsh people have blown on everything, spring has come to the marshes. And in the evening, the Marsh Crone sniffs the air and says: ‘It’s almost time to start brewing again.’”


“‘Any other woman would float downstream,’ the farmer said.” “The Contrary Woman,” an Ethiopian variant, is found in Courlander’s The Fire on the Mountain (Holt, Rinehart and Winston).
MATTER OF ALL MASTERS. In: English Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.
A good choice to close the Story Hour. It should be brought swiftly and dramatically to its climax.

A miserly cobbler has his wares bewitched by a fairy song.

The little red fox, the good genius of this Finnish tale, resembles Puss-in-Boots, but has his own humor and individuality.

The daughter of Lin Yutang tells the legend of the Cowherd who married and lost one of the seven heavenly princesses.

"If you try to please all, you will please none."
A more traditional version is "The Miller, His Son, and Their Ass" in Aesop's Fables, edited and illustrated by Boris Artzybasheff (Viking).

"Cats here, cats there,
Cats and kittens everywhere . . ."
A story that has the humor and quality of an old folk tale.

"You would think that when two people get along together so well, they would never have a quarrel in the world. But once upon a time they did, and this is how it happened."

MR. FOX. In: English Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.
"Be bold, be bold, but not too bold,
Lest that your heart's blood should run cold."

MR. MIACCA. In: English Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.
"Then Tommy Grimes said to Mrs. Miacca, 'Does Mr. Miacca always have little boys for supper?'"
Mr. MURDIE’S LARGE HEART, by Margery Williams Bianco. In her: A Street of Little Shops. Doubleday.

“It is pink and purple, with yellow around the edges, and in the middle, which is white, there are rows of little elastic loops . . .”

Mr. SAMSON CAT. In: Picture Tales from the Russian, by Valery Carrick. Dufour. Also in: The Buried Treasure and Other Picture Tales, selected by Kathie Steinmetz Ross. Lippincott.

“Have you heard the news? . . . Widow Fox has got a dreadful animal living with her, the mighty Mr. Samson Cat.”

Mr. VINEGAR. In: English Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.

Poor foolish Mr. Vinegar finds a fortune and trades it away.


An Alaskan folktale with the moral, “It does not pay for fathers to be running around all the time.”

MOLLY WHUPPET. In: English Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.

“Woe worth ye, Molly Whuppet! never you come again.” “Once yet, carle,” quoth she, “I’ll come to Spain.”

MONOFARO. In: Japanese Fairy Tales, by Lafcadio Hearn and Others. Liveright. Also in: The Dancing Kettle and Other Japanese Folk Tales, retold by Yoshiko Uchida. Harcourt, Brace and World.

“All of a sudden one peach burst in two and there was no stone to it, but a fine boy baby where the stone should have been.”


“I wish you had told me this before,” said the monkey, “then I would have brought my heart along.”

A variant of this tale is in African Myths and Legends, retold by Kathleen Amott (Walck).


“The spell was broken, and there instead of a fish stood a handsome prince.” This story from India is rich in its human values and fascinating detail.

MURDOCH’S RATH, by Juliana Horatia Ewing. In her: Old Fashioned Fairy Tales. Bell.

The story of Irish Pat who danced with the fairies. A simple story, easy to tell.
NELLA'S DANCING SHOES. In: Italian Peepshow, by Eleanor Far- 

geon. Walek.

"And whenever she danced in her rose-red velvet dancing slippers all 

the people clapped their hands and shouted, 'Brava, Nella! Brava! Brava!""


A perennial favorite.

THE NIGHTINGALE, by Hans Christian Andersen. In: The Art of 

the Story-teller, by Marie Shedlock. Dover.

The universal appeal of this great tale lies in its beauty and subtle 

humor.

THE NIGHTINGALE AND THE ROSE, by Oscar Wilde. In his: The 

Complete Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde. Watts.

"Be happy," cried the Nightingale, 'be happy; you shall have your red 

rose. I will build it out of music by moonlight, and stain it with my own 

heart's-blood."

NIX Nought Nothing. In: English Folk and Fairy Tales, by 

Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.

"A giant came up to him and said, 'I'll carry you over.' But the King 
said, 'What's your pay?' Oh, give me Nix, nought, nothing, and I will 
carry you over the water on my back.'"

NUMSKULL AND THE RABBIT. In: The Panchatantra, translated 

by Arthur W. Ryder. University of Chicago Press. Also in: A 

Baker's Dozen, selected by Mary Gould Davis. Harcourt, Brace and World.

"The rabbit played upon his pride to fool him; and the lion died."

OLD FIRE DRAGAMAN. In: The Jack Tales, by Richard Chase. 

Houghton Mifflin.

Old Fire Dragaman "commenced spittin' balls of fire ... some of 'em 

big as pumpkins. ... Fin'ly Jack got in close and clipped him with that 
sword, took his head clean off."

THE OLD HAG OF THE FOREST. In: In Chimney Corners, by Seu-

nus MacManus. Doubleday. o. p. Also in: Ghosts and Goblins, 


One of the oldest stories in Irish folklore, full of battles, giants and 

enchantments.

THE OLD MAN WITH THE BUMP. In: The Dancing Kettle and 

Other Japanese Folk Tales, retold by Yoshiko Uchida. Harcourt, 

Brace and World.

"Long, long ago, there lived an old man who had a large bump on 

his right cheek. It grew larger and larger each day, and he could do 

nothing to make it go away."
OLD ONE-EYE. In: Grandfather Tales, by Richard Chase. Houghton Mifflin.
This and "Chum o' Meat" are good choices for the Halloween story hour.

"With a willy-willy wag, and a long-tailed bag, Who's stole my money, all I had?"

"Stick! stick! beat dog! dog won't bite pig; piggy won't get over the stile; and I shan't get home tonight."
A cumulative story enjoyed by little children with whom Paul Galdone's picture book (Whittlesey House) can be used.

ONCE A MOUSE... by Marcia Brown. Scribner.
"But the hermit read the tiger's mind. 'You are ungrateful! go back to the forest and be a mouse again!'"

ONE MEAN TRICK DESERVES ANOTHER. In: The Elephant's Bath-tub, by Frances Carpenter. Doubleday.
Six brothers learn to their sorrow that it does not pay to trick the foolish son of a wise father.

"Bleat, my little goat, bleat, Cover the table with something to eat."

ORANGES AND LEMONS. In: Italian Peepshow, by Eleanor Farjeon. Walek.
"I don't believe it!" said the White Prince. 'Go back and ask her if I may come and see her oranges and lemons and if they are really bigger then mine I will give her my palace and all that is in it."

Why Chinese women paint their eyebrows.

The story about a king who lived in a one-room palace and kept his sixteen children in sixteen lobster pots.

PATIENT CRISELDA. THE CLERK OF OXFORD'S TALE. In: Tales from Chaucer. The Canterbury Tales done into prose by Eleanor Farjeon. Branford.
"But nowadays, my Lords, you might search two or three towns, and not find one Griselda."

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"Some of these stories you may find a mite hard to believe, but you must remember that folks who do things that are easy to believe don't often have stories told about them, anyway."


"It was so cold that winter that the loggers all swore blue streaks, and the snow all turned blue — came down blue in the first place, and then turned bluer after it touched the ground, too."


Pecos Bill, until he was a grown man, believed that he was a coyote. "Later he discovered that he was a human being and very shortly thereafter became the greatest cowboy of all time."

Pecos Bill, Blue-Foot Sue Dodges the Moon. In: Pecos Bill, the Greatest Cowboy of All Time, by James Cloyd Bowman. Albert Whitman.

Pecos Bill and Blue-Foot Sue would have been married if she hadn't tried to ride his horse with her bustle on.


The advice that Saint Patrick gave a peddler and what came of it.


How Pekka punished the two rogues who cheated him on the sale of his cow.

Perez and Martina, by Pura Belpré. Illustrated by Carlos Sanchez. Warne.

"This story runs from mouth to mouth . . . the story is told here in the way it came down to me from my grandmother." A Puerto Rican folk tale about the little cockroach, Martina, who still sings for her Perez to come back to her.


"The original has the marks of early Greek poetry, great simplicity and directness and delight in the beautiful world." Miss Hamilton's version reflects the qualities she has found in the Greek.


The story of the slaying of Medusa is like a fairy tale with its magic wallet and cap and with the gods serving as fairy godmothers.
A good story, with or without the music.

PETERKIN AND THE LITTLE GREY HARE, by Howard Pyle. In his:
How Peterkin, with the help of the little grey hare, three times outwitted a giant and gained half a kingdom and a princess in the bargain.

PHAETHON. In: Mythology, by Edith Hamilton. Little, Brown.
"Here Phaethon lies who drove the Sun-god’s car.
Greatly he failed, but he had greatly dared."

THE POOR COUNT’S CHRISTMAS, by Frank Stockton. Lippincott.
The merry story of a Christmas party given by a fairy, a giant, and a village full of children. The Harper version has been skillfully cut for the storyteller.

A Chassidic legend of a Prince who, because he was made entirely of precious stones, had all the virtues of all the jewels in the world.

Prince Ivan goes to the end of the world to be safe from his baby sister, who is a witch, and has iron teeth, and grows like a seed of corn.

In this light-hearted Mexican story, it is the princess who saves the "logical" José.

Ruth Sawyer heard this Irish variant of "The Taming of the Shrew" from a shanachy in Connaught.

"'See now?' said the Raven, 'I will show you the way out of the forest, if you will give me your youngest daughter to be my wife.""
"'How now,' said the King, 'have you got the golden apple? Speak out!'
'Yes, I have,' said Boots, 'here is the first, and here is the second, and here is the third, too . . . !'"

"They could see now that she was a real Princess because she had felt the pea through twenty mattresses and twenty eider-down quilts."

"... for it's not every day one can get a king's daughter and half a kingdom just for the asking. The gate to the king's manor didn't stop swinging for a moment . . . But there was no one who could make the princess stop talking."

"... the Princess Ariadne Diana was probably the fattest in the whole world . . . So fat was she that she had never walked a step in the dozen years of her life, being totally unable to progress over the earth by any method except rolling."

This is an excellent version of a favorite French tale. Use with it Marcia Brown's picture book, Puss in Boots (Scribner).

"If you made me Queen of the World and Heaven besides I wouldn't marry a man I don't love and never saw . . ." How the King of Connach's daughter who chose to marry Jeremy Donn, the King of the Tinkers, became the Queen of Ireland.

An excellent retelling of a favorite story. Felix Hoffmann's version (Harcourt, Brace and World) with his beautiful illustrations is also a good choice.

"And now the rat catcher was the richest man in all the world; all his traps were made of gold, and when he went rat-hunting he rode in a gilded coach drawn by twelve hundred of the finest and largest rats."

“A man am I
Six inches high
But a long, long beard
Hangs from my chin —
Open the door
And let me in!”


“I have brought back the light. Now there shall be light and then dark, and we shall have day and night.” An Alaskan Indian creation tale.

REFLECTIONS. In: Japanese Fairy Tales, by Lafcadio Hearn and Others. Liveright.

An amusing story of simple folk and the confusion a mirror wrought in their lives.


A delightful extravaganza to be told seriously.


The remarkable antics of Reynard the Fox have many parallels in folklore, from the Jackal of India to Brer Rabbit and Anansi.

ROBIN HOOD. HOW ROBIN HOOD BECAME AN OUTLAW AND HOW HE MET WITH LITTLE JOHN. In: Merry Adventures of Robin Hood, by Howard Pyle. Scribner.

Howard Pyle's retelling of the Robin Hood stories is as robust and vivid as the ballads themselves.


“My name is Rolonde. Search my mane till you find in it a white hair; draw it out and wind it upon one of your fingers; and so long as you have it so wound you are my master; and wherever I am I must return to your bidding.”


The retelling by Baldwin is the simpler for the Story Hour. The Sherwood edition is a prose translation of Chanson de Roland.

A German variant of "Tom Tit Tot."


The first miracle that was wrought by the Queen who is now the patron saint of Hungary.


A translation from the Fioriti of the story of Saint Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio.


The legend of a humble saint who was much like Androcles. Rumer Godden uses a free verse form in her version, St. Jerome and the Lion (Viking).


The true story of the good Saint. In her beautiful book, "The Twenty Miracles of Saint Nicholas," (Little, Brown) Bernarda Bryson retells the miracles from old manuscripts with drawings which convey their spirit and vitality.


"That is the story about salt, and how it made a rich man of Ivan the Ninny, and besides gave him the prettiest wife in the world, and she a Tsar's daughter."


Sungura, the East African Bre'r Rabbit, uses sap and red clay to make his Tar-Baby.


Scarface is rewarded with Medicine Power and a faithful bride when he journeys to the "Abiding Place of the Above Person, the Sun."


"The saying goes that King Laurin comes every year at the Christmas to one hut — one family — to play his tricks and share his treasure horde."

"And the Giant's heart melted as he looked out. 'How selfish I have been!' he said; 'now I know why the Spring would not come here.'"


When one of the young girls of Sevilla is to be married and is too poor to buy a wedding dress they say: "Go to the Dominican Virgin and pray to her. She will see that you have a dress and a mantilla to wear."


Pictures and story combine to make this one of the most beautiful versions of The Seven Ravens.


"Did you ever hear the tale of the six princesses who lived for the sake of their hair alone?"


"That's a princess for you! Why, even if she is a princess, she always says 'Please' to her own husband!"

THE SHIP THAT SAILED BY LAND AND SEA. In: Tales from a Finnish Tuppa, by James Cloyd Bowman and Margery Bianco. Albert Whitman.

"'Hark ye, hark ye! This is the King's proclamation! The King will give his daughter in marriage to the man who brings to his palace a ship that can sail both on land and sea.'"


Little children enjoy this story of kindness repaid, and for them Adrienne Adams has made a sprightly picture book (Scribner).


A Czech story about a clever shoemaker who outwits both the devil and St Peter.


The journey of the egg from hat-to-nails-to-hat-to-sidewalk-to-hat-to-sidewalk-to-hat.

Why the jellyfish is boneless.


Casper may not have had "enough sense to blow his potatoes when they were hot" but what he lacked in Wit he made up in Luck.

SIX SERVANTS. In: Tales from Grimm, freely translated and illustrated by Wanda Gág. Coward-McCann.

"The Prince led the way and each in turn followed him: The Fat One and The Long One, The Looker and The Listener, Shatter Eyes and Frosty-hot."


"Showing how a man may gain ye best of ye Bargain with ye Red One by ye help of his wife."


In his beautiful picture book (Harcourt, Brace and World), Felix Hoffmann uses the Grimm, "Dornröschchen," as his source.


This thief is so clever that he outwits the king and his counsellors, until in the end he is forgiven and marries the king's daughter.

SNEGOURKA. In: The Art of the Story-teller, by Marie Shedlock. Dover.

"Since God has given us no little child, let us go and fashion one from the snow." A version for younger children is "Snowflake" in Valery Carrick's Picture Tales from the Russian (Dufour).

SNOW WHITE AND ROSE RED. In: Tales from Grimm, freely translated and illustrated by Wanda Gág. Coward-McCann.

"Spare my life, Snow White, Rose Red, he who is dead can never wed."

The picture book by Adrienne Adams (Scribner) is good to use with younger children.


"Mirror, Mirror on the wall
Who's the fairest one of all?"

Wanda Gág's version of this favorite tale is the best.
SODY SALLYHAYTUS. In: Grandfather Tales, by Richard Chase. Houghton Mifflin.

A lively version of “The Three Billy Goats Gruff” as told in the Southern Mountains. “Soap, Soap, Soap” is a good companion story — both begin about uncommonly complicated trips to the store.


The hilariously funny story about Brer Rabbit, Brer Fox, and the well. In Margaret Wise Brown’s Brer Rabbit (Harper) this story is called “Old Mr. Rabbit, He’s a Good Fisherman.”


“Jack looked up and there in ever’ one of them little windows sat a big black cat. They all were a-lookin’ right at Jack, their eyes just a-shinin’.”

THE SQUIRE’S BRIDE. In: East o’ the Sun and West o’ the Moon, retold by Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen. Row, Petersen. o. p. Also in: Norwegian Folk Tales, from the collection of Peter Christen Asbjornslen and Jcrgen Moe. Viking.

“There was a clatter and a thumping on the stairs, for that bride, you know, had no silken slippers on.”


“He looked at the little lady, she looked at him, and he felt that he was melting, but he stood steadfast with shouldered arms.” Marcia Brown has made this into a charming picture book (Scribner).


A poor brother gains riches when he honors the stone lion, but the grasping rich brother gets held fast in its jaws.


An epic story of the lad who recovered the King of Ireland’s three best teeth from a thieving Giant.


“A good stone soup should have a cabbage,” said the soldiers as they sliced the carrots into the pot, “But no use asking for what you don’t have.”
A humorous tale about a parrot who can say anything except the name of the town in which he was born.

THE STRANGE VISITOR. In: English Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.
"In came a pair of huge huge hands, and sat down on the small small arms; And still she sat, and still she reeled, and still she wished for company."

STUBBORN HUSBAND, STUBBORN WIFE. In: Persian Folk and Fairy Tales, retold by Anne Sinclair Mehdevi. Knopf.
"And so they went to bed, each promising himself that, on the next day, he would refuse to utter a word until the other had spoken."

"As for the Swan Maiden and the prince, they flew over the seven high mountains, the seven deep valleys, and the seven wide rivers, until they came near to the prince's home again."

A great and romantic moral tale. Andersen's ironic humor challenges the art of the storyteller.

"And everything was ready to sew together in the morning, all measured and sufficient — except that there was wanting just one single skein of cherry-coloured twisted silk."

"'Fantastic, isn't it?' his stool said. 'Imagine, a talking yam!'"

"If you must follow the advice of a talking cat, be sure you know who is doing the talking for him."

THE TALKING POT. In: 13 Danish Tales, retold by Mary C. Hatch. Harcourt, Brace and World.
"'Take me, take me,' cried the pot, 'and you'll never have cause to rue it.'"
THE TALKING TREE. In: The Talking Tree, selected by Augusta Baker. Lippincott.

"No sooner was the enchantment thus broken, than from the trunk of the tree there stepped forth a damsel so lovely one could scarcely look at her."

TATTERCOATS. In: More English Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.

The instrument of magic in this Cinderella story is a pipe on which a herdboy plays tunes of enchantment.

TEENY-TINY. In: English Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.

"So the teeny-tiny woman put the teeny-tiny bone into her teeny-tiny pocket, and went home to her teeny-tiny house."


The misinterpretation of a word routs a thief, a tiger, and a wolf.

THE TERRIBLE OLLI. In: The Shepherd’s Nosegay, by Parker Fillmore, edited by Katherine Love. Harcourt, Brace and World. Also in: Giants and Witches and a Dragon or Two, selected by Phyllis R. Fenner. Knopf.

"Well after that no other Troll ever dared settle on that side of the Mountain. They were all too afraid of the Terrible Olli!"


This story and “Thor’s Hammer Is Stolen” are humorous episodes from Norse mythology.


Children love to follow the humorous touches in Leslie Brooke’s inimitable drawings for this familiar tale.


The illustrations for this picture book catch the carefree spirit of the goats and the stupidity of the wicked old troll.


The Finnish “Bluebeard” with an unexpectedly humorous ending.

THREE FRIDAYS. In: Once the Hodja, by Alice Geer Kelsey. McKay.

A funny story about the Hodja who cleverly solved his weekly problem of preaching a sermon.
THREE GOLDEN ORANGES. In: Three Golden Oranges, by Ralph Steele Boggs and Mary Gould Davis. McKay.

"He broke the skin of the orange — out of it there stepped a tiny maiden!"


No artist has ever given the hero of this story more character than Leslie Brooke.


The Three Kings followed the wrong star one Twelfth Night, and the children in Spain almost got no presents.


"You may be sure the princesses were glad now that they didn't have to sit and scratch the Troll's heads any longer."

The original illustrations by Werenskiold and Kittelsen add to the charm of this edition.


"... when I can find three bigger sillies than you three, then I'll come back and marry your daughter." There is an attractive picture book version by Margot Zemach (Holt, Rinehart and Winston).


"And before you could say Jack Robinson, there the goodman sat and his nose was the longer for a noble link of black pudding."

THUMBELINA, by Hans Christian Andersen. In his: It's Perfectly True and Other Stories, translated from the Danish by Paul Leyssac. Harcourt, Brace and World.

"... on the green stool in the middle of the flower sat the tiniest little girl you ever saw, the most delicate and graceful one imaginable, and she was not even as big as one's thumb." The translation by R. P. Keigwin is used by Adrienne Adams in her picture book version (Scribner).

TICKY-PICKY BOOM-BOOM. In: Anansi, the Spider Man. Jamaican Folk Tales, told by Philip M. Sherlock. Crowell.

"Down the road came the yams, stamping on their two legs, three legs, four legs:

'Ticky-Picky Boom-Boom,
Ticky-Picky Boom-Boom, Boof!'"

The Rabbit outsmarted the Tiger so often that in the end there was nothing to do but become the best of friends.


"It's very odd," said he, sadly, "but it all seems to go in at one ear and out at the other! I will go to the place where it all happened, and then perhaps I shall be able to give a judgment."

In Baker's The Talking Tree (Lippincott) the title is "The Brahman, the Tiger and the Seven Judges."


Yun Ok learns the power of patience and understanding in gaining the love of man or beast.


"One, two, three! Look! There were all the dogs, the one with eyes as big as saucers, the one with eyes like mill-wheels, and the one with eyes as big as the Hound Tower."

THE TINKER AND THE GHOST. In: Three Golden Oranges, by Ralph Steele Boggs and Mary Gould Davis. McKay.

"On the wide plain not far from the city of Toledo there once stood a great gray castle. For many years before this story begins no one had dwelt there, because the Castle was haunted."

TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH. In: The Art of the Story-teller, by Marie Shedlock. Dover.

"Long, long ago there lived a King who was such a mighty monarch that whenever he sneezed everyone in the whole country had to say, "To your good health!" Everyone said it except the Shepherd with the bright blue eyes, and he would not say it."


"At every word thou speakest there shall come from thy mouth either a flower or a precious jewel."


"An oak-leaf hat he had for his crown;
His shirt of web by spiders spun;
With jacket wove of thistle's down;
His trousers were of feathers done."

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Tom Tit Tot. In: English Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs Putnam.

"Ninny mummy not
My name's Tom Tit Tot."

The Silver Cuckoo, by Eleanor Farjeon (Viking) is based on this old tale.


"I'm no believer in charms and spells myself," said Tomson in a whisper.

"Living with a witch one knows too much about them," said the broom.

The Tongue-cut Sparrow. In: The Dancing Kettle and Other Japanese Folk Tales, retold by Yoshiko Uchida. Harcourt, Brace and World.

How a greedy old woman learned a lesson in kindness and moderation.


"Better beans and bacon in peace than cakes and ale in fear."


"So she grew tall and fair, and as she grew, the toy Princess, in her place at the court grew too, and always was just like her..."


"The townspeople looked at one another and tried not to laugh, or even smile, while the chief asked the stone questions."

A Burmese tale of justice.


De la Mare calls this "The Dancing Princesses" in his Tales Told Again (Knopf).


"Then they took a polite farewell of each other, and set off for home again, and to the end of their lives they believed that Osaka and Kioto, which are as different to look at as two towns can be, were as like as two peas."

Two of Everything. In: The Treasure of Li-Po, by Alice Ritchie. Harcourt, Brace and World.

A magic pot produces two of everything, including Mrs. Hak-Tak.
"It sounds very interesting," the tiger said. "I think it would be very nice to be made two tigers."

"It does not matter being born in a duckyard, if only one has lain in a swan's egg."

"Why don't you borrow a horse from Mr. Toussaint? Moussa suggested.
"Toussaint! That stingy old man! He'll charge me rent. He'll charge me for even talking to him!"

"Then the Daughter of the Deep Sea arose, and she took the fisherman in her arms, and sank with him, down, down, to her cold sea cave."

"Yes, the donkey to be sure," he answered.
"Come and see," said she . . . "

"Vasilissa rose and went at once to the Palace and as soon as the Tzar saw her, he fell in love with her with all his soul."

"Clip, clap! Clip, clap! I wish I had my wee red cap!"
THE \textit{WAtt.is Nix1r.} \textit{by} Pinelas Tennant. \textit{In:} The Art of the Storyteller, by Marie Shedlock. Dover.

"Then the Nixie had to rise up and go away, and be shut into the fastness of a very small space, according to the words of the Queen. And this small space was — a tear."


"We. Helmites, aren't fools. It's just that foolish things are always happening to us."

\textbf{THE WA\textbf{V}e.} Adapted from Lafadno Iearn's Gleanings in Buddha-Fields by Margaret Hodges. Houghton Mifflin.

How Ojisan set fire to his rice fields to save the people of his village from disaster.


"Well, first came the Spoon Lickers . . . ."

\textbf{THE WEE CH\textbf{R}i\textbf{s}ti\textbf{N}AS CAB\textbf{I}N OF C\textbf{A}IN-\textbf{N}A-\textbf{W}EEN,} by Ruth Sawyer. \textit{In her:} The Long Christmas. Viking.

"Aye, Oona Heparty, the tinker's child, will be keeping the griddle hot, the kettle full, and her arms wide to the childher of half the world this night — if it be's a white Christmas."


"We'll catch her some fine night, ye'll see," said the weest man of them all, standing just the other side of the haycock from Meg. "If not one midsummer night, then another."


"'Twas in the faraway of long ago, when the world was rare and happenin's quarer, a thousand times than they are today, that this befell."


"Open the door, my lumpy, my heart,  
Open the door, my own darling,  
Mind you the words that you and I spoke  
Down in the meadow, at the World's End."

\textbf{WHIC\textbf{H} W\textbf{A}S W\textbf{I}TCH?} \textit{In:} Which was Witch? by Eleanore M. Jewett. Viking.

They were as identical as twins. One was a witch and one was his wife, but which was which? A Halloween story from Korea.

This is from the version arranged by Rachel Field and illustrated by E. Mackinstry (Macmillan) o. p.


"To All Our Sweethearts, Old Polka and Young Folks:
We have started to go where the white horses come from and where the blue winds begin. Keep a corner in your hearts for us while we are gone.

THE WHITE HORSE GIRL
THE BLUE WIND BOY"

WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT. In: English Folk and Fairy Tales, by Joseph Jacobs. Putnam.

Younger children like Marcia Brown's picture book, Dick Whittington and His Cat (Scribner).


In this amusing story a rabbit and a monkey discover that no one ever easily changes his ways.


The denouement of this folk tale from Africa is much like that of the East Indian "The Tiger, the Brahman and the Jackal." A story to make the audience laugh.

WHY THE BEAR IS STUMPY-TAILED. In: True and Untrue and Other Norse Tales, edited and compiled by Sigrid Undset. Knopf.

A good encore story. A longer variant is found in Parker's Skunny Wundy (Doubleday). o. p.

WHY THE SEA IS SALT. In: True and Untrue and Other Norse Tales, edited and compiled by Sigrid Undset. Knopf.

"There lies the quern at the bottom of the sea, grinding away at this very day."


Saint Peter wouldn't let him in "up yonder" and the devil "done locked him out" too.

Andersen, with his magic touch, has turned a folk tale into one of his loveliest stories. Marcia Brown uses the M. H. James translation in her beautiful picture book (Scribner).


"The Wind boasted to the Sun one day: 'I am stronger than you by far.'"

Brian Wildsmith's "The North Wind and the Sun" (Watts) is a colorful picture book version to use with little children.

THE WISE JUDGE. In: The Lion's Whiskers, by Russell Davis and Brent Ashabranner. Little, Brown.

"It might seem strange that Justice Yasu could be so wise and fair in deciding cases that were brought before him. The truth was that he could scarcely hear a word that was said, even when shouted."


"'That sounds right enough,' said the King, 'but right and law are not always the same thing. We had better ask somebody who knows.'"

THE WITCHES' RIDE. In: The Witches' Ride and Other Tales from Costa Rica, told into English and illustrated by Lupe De Osma. Morrow.

What happened when the hobo rode on a witch's broom.


A favorite with young children, illustrated with humor and vitality.


"Not only was she a master baker, but she was the cleverest woman in the world; and it was the first that got her into trouble, but it was the second that got her out of it."


"'And I wish last, that whatever I want will go into my knapsack, and whatever I want will come out.'"


The best known of the "Uncle Remus" stories retold with only the conversations in dialect.

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"So, thinking he was dead, the woodcutter didn't try to get up at all, but just lay there without moving."

Harold Courlander calls the Haitian version of this tale "Bouki Cuts Wood" in his collection, The Piece of Fire (Harcourt, Brace and World).


"The truth is, that no sooner had he set eyes on the Maid with the Bowl on her Head than he was filled with curiosity to know all about her."


A story about six mischievous goblins hatched from six large eggs.

Young Kate, by Eleanor Farjeon. In: The Little Bookroom. Walck.

"... for I shouldn't wonder but you'll have the luck to meet the Green Woman there, or the River King, or the Dancing Boy."


"... if you sit on a rock and try to look through the blue water, as far below as you can see, the spires of Ys the beautiful will rise from the depths, before your wondering eyes."

* * *

"Snip, snap, snout
This tale's told out."

From East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon
For Reading Aloud

POETRY

BEOWULF THE WARRIOR, retold by Ian Serraillier. Valk.


CAMBRIDGE BOOK OF POETRY FOR CHILDREN, compiled by Kenneth Grahame. Putnam.

CAUTIONARY VERSES, by Hilaire Belloc. Knopf.


COME HITHER, compiled by Walter de la Mare. Knopf.

COMPLETE NONSENSE BOOK, by Edward Lear. Dodd.

THE CRYSTAL CABINET. AN INVITATION TO POETRY, by Horace Gregory and Marya Zaturenska. Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

ELEANOR FARJEON'S POEMS FOR CHILDREN, by Eleanor Farjeon. Lippincott.

GOD'S TROMBONES, by James Weldon Johnson. Viking.

GOLDEN SLIPPERS, compiled by Ama Bontemps. Harper.

IMAGINATION'S OTHER PLACE. POEMS OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS, compiled by Helen Plotz. Crowell.

LEAN OUT OF THE WINDOW. AN ANTHOLOGY OF MODERN POETRY, compiled by Sara Hannum and Gwendolyn E. Reed. Antheneum.

A LITTLE LAUGHTER, compiled by Katherine Love. Crowell.


Poems, by Rachel Field. Macmillan.

Poems for Youth, by Emily Dickinson. Little.


Poems Selected for Young People, by Edna St Vincent Millay. Harper.

Rhymes and Verses, by Walter de la Mare. Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

A Pocket in My Pocket. The Rhymes and Chants of Young Americans, by Carl Withers. Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Song of Robin Hood, by Anne Malcolmson. Houghton Mifflin.


This Way, Delight. A Book of Poetry for the Young, compiled by Herbert Read. Pantheon.

Thina Linha. Rhymes Old and New, by Laura Elizabeth Richards. Little.

Wind Song, by Carl Sandburg. Harcourt, Brace and World.

The World of Christopher Robin, by A. A. Milne. Dutton.


Yours Till Niagara Falls, compiled by Lillian Morrison. Crowell.

STORIES


ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND, by Lewis Carroll. Macmillan.


ANIMALS OF THE BIBLE, by Dorothy P. Lathrop. Lippincott.


BY HIS OWN MIGHT, by Dorothy Hosford. Holt.

THE CAT WHO WENT TO HEAVEN, by Elizabeth Coatsworth. Macmillan.


INDIAN TALES, written and illustrated by Jaime de Angulo; with a foreword by Carl Carmer. Hill and Wang.

JOHN HENRY AND HIS HAMMER, by Harold W. Felton. Knopf.


THE KING OF IRELAND'S SON, by Padraic Colum. Macmillan.

THE LIGHT PRINCESS AND OTHER TALES, by George MacDonald. Watts.


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MARTIN PIPPIN IN THE APPLE ORCHARD, by Eleanor Farjeon. Lippincott.

MARY POPPINS, by Pamela L. Travers. Harcourt, Brace and World.

PADRE PONKO, by Robert Davis. Holiday House.


REWARDS AND FAIRIES, by Rudyard Kipling. Doubleday.


STORIES FROM THE BIBLE, by Walter de la Mare. Knopf.


THE UNICORN WITH SILVER SHOES, by Ella Young. McKay.

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT; OR, HOW TOYS BECOME REAL, by Margery Williams Bianco. Doubleday.


THE WORLD OF POOH, by A. A. Milne. Dutton.
For The Storyteller

"The art of storytelling lies within the storyteller, to be searched for, drawn out, made to grow."

From The Way of the Storyteller

BOOKS

AFRICAN FOLKTALES AND SCULPTURE. Bollingch Series XXXII. Pantheon Books.

ANIMAL STORIES, chosen, arranged, and in some part rewritten by Walter de la Mare. Scribner.

The introduction traces the development of the animal folk tale.


CHILDREN OF THE SALMON AND OTHER IRISH FOLKTALES. Selections and translations by Eileen O'Faolain. Little, Brown.


A concise discussion of the fable precedes the stories.


GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES, COMPLETE EDITION. With 212 illustrations by Josef Scharl. Pantheon.


HERO TALES FROM MANY LANDS, selected by Alice I. Hazeltine. Abingdon Press.

HOW TO TELL STORIES TO CHILDREN, by Sara Cone Bryant. Houghton Mifflin. o. p.

HUNGARIAN FOLK TALES, selected and edited by Gyula Ortutay. Vanous.


Mythology, by Edith Hamilton. Little, Brown.

Myths of the World, by Padraic Colum. The Universal Library. Grosset and Dunlap.

Never to Die. The Egyptians in Their Own Words, selected and arranged with Commentary by Josephine Mayer and Tom Prideaux. Viking.


Oxford Myths and Legends. Wark.


The Romance of Tristan and Iseult, as retold by Joseph Bédier. Heritage Press.


Russian Tales for Children, by Alexi Tolstoy. Dutton.


Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology and Legend, edited by Maria Leach. Funk and Wagnalls, 2 v.

The Stars in Our Heaven, by Peter Lum. Pantheon.


STORYTELLING NEW AND OLD, by Padraic Colum. Macmillan.


RECORDINGS

AN ANTHOLOGY OF NEGRO POETRY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. Folkways FC 7114
Ama Bontemps reads from his anthology, Golden Slippers (Harper).

CARL SANDBURG'S POEMS FOR CHILDREN. Caedman TC 1124
The poet's melodious voice weaves spells as he reads such favorites as "Boxes and Bags," "Two Moon Fantasies," "Little Girl, Be Careful What you Say," and others.
FOLK TALE RECORDS. American Library Association.

A set of five 78 RPM records by distinguished storytellers. Includes: “Brer Mud Turtle’s Trackery,” told by Frances Clarke Sayers; “The Frog,” and “Schnitzle, Schnotzle and Schmootzle,” told by Ruth Sawyer.

FOLK TALES FROM WEST AFRICA. Folkways FC 7103

Five stories read by Harold Courlander from his book, Cow-Tail Switch (Holt, Rinehart and Winston).

AN INFORMAL HOUR WITH J. FRANK DOHME. Spoken Arts 722

Four tall tales, “Big-foot Wallace and the Hickory Nuts,” “The ‘Mezula’ Man,” “Sancho — the Long-horned Steer,” and “Bears are Intelligent People,” are told by a folklorist of the Southwest.

JACK TALEs. Library of Congress AAFS 1,47-48

From the folklore collection of the Library of Congress. The stories are told by Mrs M. Long in clearly understandable dialect.

THE JOHN MASSEFIELD STORYTELLING FESTIVAL. Toronto Public Library Record 1

Storytelling in the traditional manner. Includes a message from John Masefield and talks on storytelling by Frances Trotter and Eileen Cobwell.

JUST SO STORIES. Cadmon TC 1038, TC 1088, TC 1139

Boris Karloff reads with humor and suspense.

ROBERT FROST. Cadmon TC 1060

This recording was made at the poet’s home in 1956. It is considered the definitive reading of his works.

ROOTABAGA STORIES. Cadmon TC 1089, TC 1159

Carl Sandburg reads from his book of the same name (Harcourt, Brace and World).

RUTH SAWYER, STORYTELLER. Weston Woods WW 701-WW 702

A two-record album in which the well-known storyteller talks about the art of storytelling and tells four stories: “The Voyage of the Wee Red Cap,” “The Flea,” “The Peddler of Ballaghaderene,” and “A Chinese Fairy Tale.”

THE STAR MAIDEN AND OTHER INDIAN TALES. CMS Records 500


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TALES OF HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN. Caedmon TC 1073


THORNE-THOMSEN RECORDS. American Library Association.

A set of five 78 RPM records by Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen. The stories told include: "Sleeping Beauty," "Gudbrand-on-the-Hillside," "Balder, a Norse Myth," and "Tales from the Volsunga Saga."

THE THREE LITTLE PIGS. Caedmon TC 1129


UNCLE BOUQUI OF HAITI. Folkways FC 7107

Augusta Baker tells a group of stories from Harold Courlander's Uncle Bouqui of Haiti (Morrow).

WALTER DE LA MARE SPEAKS. Caedmon 1046

A mood record in which the author reminisces and reads from his own works.

Tapes of the ALA Miami Beach Conference Story-telling Festival are available from the University of Michigan, Audio Visual Center, 720 East Huron Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan. The tapes include: THE GOAT WELL, told by Augusta Baker; THE PEDDLER OF BALLECHADEREEN, told by Marjorie Dobson; THE OLD MAN OF THE FLOWERS, told by Shigeo Watanabe; THE NIGHTINGALE, told by Mary Strang; ELSIE PIDDOCK SKIPS IN HER SLEEP, told by Eileen H. Colwell; MISS COW FALLS A VICTIM TO MR. RABBIT, told by Stephanie Fraser; THE WOLF AND THE SEVEN LITTLE KIDS, told by Mrs Rosemarie Hohne; THE STORY OF THE GREAT BELL OF PEKING, told by Marguerite A. Dodson; A HERO CYCLE, OLD FIRE DRAGAMAN, and THE HARE AND THE HEDGEHOG, told by Frances Clarke Sayers.
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Huckabuck Family and How They Raised Pop Corn in Nebraska and Quit and Came Back, The
Pumpkin Giant, The
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