

Anne Izard Storytellers' Choice Award Winners

Cumulative List for Awards in 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998,
2000, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011

This award was established by the Westchester Library System to honor Anne Izard, noted librarian, storyteller and Children's Services Consultant who died in 1990. It is hoped the award will highlight and promote distinguished titles published in the field of storytelling and in doing so, bring the many riches of storytelling itself to a much greater public recognition.

Please note: award year noted in parenthesis at the end of annotation.

Baltuck, Naomi. *Apples From Heaven: Multicultural Folk Tales About Stories and Storytellers.* Linnet, 1995. Where stories come from, where they go and what happens to them when they take on a life of their own are some of the questions posed through 21 tales in this lively collection. Included, as well, are tales of tellers-from raconteurs, liars and gossips to clams that won't shut up. The uses of stories are explored, too, not only through the stories themselves but from Baltuck's heartfelt introductions and her use of proverbs that pinpoint the meaning of each and every tale. (1998)

Barber, Antonia. *The Mousehole Cat.* Macmillan, 1990. This Cornish legend, retold from a feline point of view, tells of a fisherman and his cat who brave the perils of a winter storm to bring a catch of fish to their starving village and whose courage is still celebrated in that village every Christmas. Barber's language is descriptive, well-paced, rhythmic and sprinkled with names of Cornish foods ("star-gazy pie, soused scad") to roll around the teller's mouth. (1992)

Bateman, Teresa. *The Ring of Truth.* Holiday House, 1997. An original tale with the flavor of time-tested folklore, this tells of Patrick O'Kelly whose stories are so outrageous that people feel sure he must have kissed the Blarney Stone. When presented by the king of the leprechauns with a magical ring that compels him to speak on the truth, Patrick discovers to his nimble-tongued astonishment that truth proves more incredible than blarney. With its vivid language and rollicking humor this is a tale sure to win its way into many a storytelling bag of tricks. (1998)

Best-Loved Stories Told at the National Storytelling Festival. The National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling, 1991. Thirty-seven stories culled from hundreds which have been shared during the past nineteen years of the annual Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee. This book serves as an introduction to the

tellers as well as their tales, and a diverse and talented lot they are. Here is something for everyone. (1992)

Birch, Carol L. and Melissa A. Heckler. *Who Says: Essays on Pivotal Issues in Contemporary Storytelling*. August House, 1996. Ten essays by anthropologists, writers, folklorists, musicians, teachers, and librarians, many of whom are distinguished storytellers. This collection examines diverse models of storytelling and provides an expanded language for discussion of storytelling aesthetics and ethics. Like a banquet with a variety of rich foods and provocative guests, this book demands that the reader bring his intellect to the party and join in the dialogue and contemplation. (1998)

Birch, Carol L. *The Whole Story Handbook: Using Imagery to Complete the Story Experience*. August House. 2000. With generous guidance and support from Birch, an internationally known and beloved storyteller, beginners and even expert tellers can expand and hone their art form. In these pages we discover how to become passionately engaged in our own stories, not only with the full use of our senses, but with our attitudes, strengths and even weaknesses. Readers are also invited to explore the critical differences between storytelling, acting and media reporting. Although its main focus is storytelling, the wisdom in this brief book can well be applied to living creatively and with conviction. (2002)

Bresnick-Perry, Roslyn. *I Love My Mother on Saturdays and Other Tales from the Shetl and Beyond*. Ben Yehuda Press, 2009. An autobiographical collection of tellable stories preserves Roslyn Bresnick-Perry's life: in the shtetl, as an immigrant newly arrived in the U.S., as a child and as an adult struggling with dyslexia and, lastly, as a successful business woman working in the garment industry. Throughout these poignant narratives, the author presents her people and her memories with compassion, humor and insight. The tales may be personal but at the same time they illuminate the immigrant experience and remind us of the delightful people - not just the numbers - of those destroyed during the Holocaust. (2011)

Bruchac, James and Joseph, retell. *The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales*. Sterling, 2008. From the beginning tale about the origins of story to the final one where Raven saves the sun for all people, *The Girl Who Helped Thunder* takes its readers on a thought-provoking ride through North American legend and legacy. This book is a compilation of tales which serve as a tribute to both its authors and the peoples they obviously cherish. (2009)

Bryan, Ashley. *The Ox of the Wonderful Horns and Other African Folktales.*

Atheneum, 1993. "Listen, let me tell the story of Frog Kumbuto who married two wives." Bryan invites us in his typically conversationally language. This lively collection of five short folk tales from a variety of African vultures was originally published in 1971, yet this attractive volume retains its appeal with wry, direct telling of timeless tales. Among the offerings are an Anansi story, a tale of a trickster tortoise, and the antecedents of both "The Black Bull of Norrway" and "The Tiger and the Rabbit." (1994)

Casanova, Mary. *The Hunter.* Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2000. Searching for food to feed his starving village, a young hunter rescues a small snake. He is rewarded for his kindness by the snake's father, the Dragon King, with the gift of understanding the language of animals—a gift that must remain a secret. And so it does, until the hunter learns from the animals about an impending flood that threatens his village. With cadenced, elegant prose this beautifully told story from the Chinese culture celebrates self-sacrifice for the sake of others. Casanova's delicate touch honors the haunting, bittersweet quality of the story, which she first heard from a foreign exchange student who was staying with her. (2002)

Cole, Brock. *Good Enough to Eat.* Farrar Straus Giroux, 2007. When an ogre comes to town demanding a bride, the town decides to sacrifice a poor nameless girl—referred to as Scraps-and-Smells by some, Skin-and-Bones by others or Sweets-and-Treats by still others. With lilting language, Cole tells the captivating story of a brave and clever girl—who outsmarts an ogre, shows up a town, and earns herself a name. (2009)

Cox, Judy. *One Is a Feast for Mouse: A Thanksgiving Tale.* Holiday House, 2008. It all starts with a pea, and then a cranberry, and then.... well, a delicious Thanksgiving feast of a tale featuring Mouse with eyes MUCH bigger than his stomach and a sly sneaking up cat. It ends with a pea, too, but not before Mouse and Cat have the expected encounter with unexpected consequences. The delicious language begs to be told aloud with young children. They'll want to join right in the refrain that reminds us all to be grateful for small things (like this story!). (2009)

Cullen, Lynn. *Little Scraggly Hair: A Dog on Noah's Ark.* Holiday House, 2003. When folks tell about Noah's ark, they usually claim no one believed in him. But that's not the whole story, because one scraggly-haired dog served Noah faithfully. Turns out long, long ago no one wanted a useless, dry-nosed, flea-carrying, cat-chasin' dog around – 'cept Noah. Noah and that dog weathered doubters, a teeming ark, and 40 days/40 nights of rain to find a happy ending near a warm fire. With a dialect as affecting as the story she tells, Lynn

Cullen brings us an Americanized, 19th-century version of Noah's story told from Little Scraggly Hair's point of view. (2004)

Daly, Jude. *Sivu's Six Wishes*. Eerdmans Books, 2010. In a modern retelling of this ancient Taoist tale, Sivu is a simple stone mason, gifted at his craft, but bitter about his poverty and low station in life. He envies everyone whose wealth or influence exceeds his and he wishes to become them. Suddenly, mysteriously - and to his great surprise - his wish for transformation is granted, not once but six times! What a life! Intoxicated with his ascendancy, Sivu discovers neither contentment nor wisdom. Jude Daley gently reminds us, when wishes come true, we become vulnerable in ways we never expect. (2011)

Daly, Nikki. *Why the Sun and Moon Live in the Sky*. Lothrop. 1995. Sun is dazzled by Sea and impulsively invites her to his home, but when Sea arrives, with "all her slippery, scaled and shelled children", Sun and Moon have nowhere to go but up. Daly's retelling of this Nigerian tale is lyrical and fluid--and tinged with sadness. An altogether modern reflection on a well-known traditional tale. (1996)

Davis, Donald. *Jack Always Seeks His Fortune*. August House, 1993. Jack romps through tales retold by the only author to receive consecutive Anne Izard Awards. "There was a time when I was convinced (Jack) was a boy who surely lived around the mountain from my grandmother's house," writes Davis who grew up on Jack tales told by family and friends in his native Appalachia. Found in oral traditions throughout the world, Jack represents each one of us as he seeks to find a mate, earn a living and subdue his foes by wit, sheer luck or however best he can. (1994)

Davis, Donald. *Listening for the Crack of Dawn*. August House, 1990. After years of public performances, Davis was persuaded to set in print these stories of his growing-up years in western North Carolina during the 1950's and '60's. Whether his subject is schoolboy shenanigans, the eccentricities of a maiden aunt or the anguish of a friend who went to Vietnam, Davis' voice is singular, wry, sharply observant and keenly felt. (1992)

Deedy, Carmen Agra, retell. *Martina, the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale*. Peachtree, 2007. "Finding husbands to choose from will be easy--picking the right one could be tricky," advises Martina's Abuela. A fresh and outrageously funny retelling of this humorous Cuban folktale about a young cockroach on the verge of marriage is flavored with Spanish words, sassy dialog, and sage advice for prospective brides. (2009)

DeFelice, Cynthia and Mary DeMarsh. *Three Perfect Peaches*. Orchard, 1995. When a princess lies dying for want of three perfect peaches, a bevy of peach-laden suitors line up at the palace to vie for her affection. A delightful variant of an oft-told tale, this rendition is set apart by its robust humor and the satisfying denouement in which truth provides justice. (1996)

Del Negro, Janice. *Lucy Dove*. DK Publishing, 1998. Del Negro rings feminine changes on "The Sprightly Tailor" in this lively, atmospheric story of a superstitious Scottish laird and the old seamstress who takes up his challenge to complete his "lucky" trousers by moonlight, in a haunted churchyard. Dismissed from the laird's service when her nimble fingers grow slow, Lucy Dove wins her own pension in her reward for the lucky trousers. In language as nimble as Lucy's own fingers, Del Negro draws an audacious heroine who braves a monster for "a comfortable old age, in a cottage of her own, on her own piece of shore." (2000)

Demi. *The Empty Pot*. Holt, 1990. When the Emperor of China decides to choose his successor, he devises a way of determining the honesty of the children in his empire. Risking public humiliation and the possible wrath of the Emperor, little Ping is the only child to pass the test. New storytellers, especially children, will find this gem of a tale easy to learn and tell. (1992)

Derby, Sally. *Jacob and the Stranger*. Ticknor and Fields, 1994. Lackadaisical Jacob faithfully tends the miniature cats which blossom from a magical plant which a stranger has left in his care, but when the stranger returns to claim his belongings, Jacob must use his wits to gain the price of his services and the companion of his heart. (1996)

Doyle, Malachy. *Malachy Doyle's Tales from Old Ireland*. Barefoot Books, 2000. The authentic lilt of the Irish rings out clearly in these seven stories retold by Belfast-born Malachy Doyle. Using vivid language and native idiom, Doyle breathes energy and new life into such classics of Irish storytelling as The Children of Lir and Oisín in Tir na nÓg, as well as other lesser known tales. A "must have" collection for anyone interested in Irish folklore. (2002)

Faulkner, Matt. *A Taste of Colored Water*. Simon & Schuster, 2008. History filtered through childhood innocence brings special poignancy to this compelling picture book account of segregation. When Abbey Finch comes back from town with tales of a fountain bubbling with "colored" water; Lulu and Jelly are sparked with curiosity and decide they must have a taste for themselves. Determined to find out what this water tastes like they

are not prepared to encounter the realities of Jim Crow. Matt Faulkner has created a powerful teaching tool for telling and a wonderful picture book to share with anyone who wants "A Taste of Colored Water". (2009)

Fleischman, Paul. *Bull Run*. Laura Geringer/Harpercollins, 1993. This Newbery Award winning author gives voice to sixteen diverse characters whose lives were indelibly touched by the battle at Bull Run. We meet, among others, a fife player who loses his innocence, an enlisted African American fighting as a 'white' soldier, a Minnesota farm girl lonely for her enlisted brother, a heart-sick doctor, and frustrated commanders from both sides. Whether a storyteller chooses to simply tell one or several characters' stories, or to present all the characters as readers' theater, this historical novel offers an array of stories which takes us directly into the heart and soul of a nation being torn apart by war. (1994)

Fleming, Candace. *Clever Jack Takes the Cake*. Schwartz & Wade/Random, 2010. In this tasty tale, the ever-penniless-but-inventive Jack bakes a scrumptious cake from scratch as his birthday gift to a princess. On the way to the castle, he encounters greedy crows, a ravenous troll, a spooky forest, a dancing bear, and a palace guard; each gradually obliterates more of the cake. Undeterred by the cake's demise, Jack brings the best gift of all to the party -- an exciting story. Fleming delights us with onomatopoeic adjectives and an ebullient narrative as she delivers a terrific message about the power of storytelling. (2011)

Fox, Mem. *Hunwick's Egg*. Harcourt, 2005.

All is not as it seems when Hunwick, a kindly old bandicoot, adopts a homeless egg. This minimalist tale reminds us that love overcomes expectations in unexpected ways. (2007)

Freeman, Judy. *Once Upon a Time: Using Storytelling, Creative Drama and Reader's Theater with Children in Grades PreK – 6*. Libraries Unlimited, 2007. For the novice to experienced storyteller, here is a resource jam-packed with one idea after another and "field tested" so they can be used with confidence. Included are booklists, how-to's, some full texts of tales, songs and stories in Reader's Theater format—a treasure trove for all! (2009)

Gershator, Phillis. *Zzzng! Zzzng! Zzzng! A Yoruba Tale*. Orchard Books, 1998. "In the days when all things came together to make the world as it is...", Mosquito set out to find someone to marry. Spurned first by Ear, then Arm, and then Leg, Mosquito ultimately has his revenge. Another take on why mosquitoes buzz- and bite!- this is a rhythmic, repetitive, word-perfect retelling of a traditional Yoruba tale. Well-suited to the youngest of

audiences and an excellent "story-stretcher" for audiences of any age, this really ZZZNGS!
(2000)

Gerstein, Mordicai. *The Man Who Walked between the Towers.* Roaring Brook Press, 2003. Honored with the 2004 Caldecott Medal for stunning illustrations, Gerstein's writing is a splendid piece of storytelling. With the deceptive simplicity of classic fairytale language, he tells the story of Philippe Petit's daring wire walk between New York's Twin Towers in 1974. In recounting the young man's extraordinary achievement, the story celebrates the unquenchable human spirit. It also reminds us two towers once reached gracefully up into the sky. This astonishing, multi-layered story deserves to be heard. (2004)

Gillard, Marni. *Storyteller, Story Teacher: Discovering the Power of Storytelling for Teaching and Living.* Stenhouse. 1996. Rather than laying out a how-to-do-it in ten easy steps approach, Gillard offers us a highly personal journey through storytelling in which she explores major turning points in her past and recalls those books and tales that left indelible impressions on her during childhood. Although Gillard's anecdotes and experiences are unique to her, they invite the reader, whether they be tellers or teachers, to look inside themselves for ways of connecting with stories that will express the meaning of their own unique lives. (1998)

Goble, Paul. *Love Flute.* Bradbury Press, 1992. Several sacred versions from Plains Indian cultures are woven together in this story which explains how the birds and animals gave the first love flute to a shy young man. Though he despaired of winning the woman he loved, in learning to echo the songs of the animals and then to create his own melodies, the young man touched and won the heart of his beloved. Simply told, yet wonderfully evocative, this story speaks of the power of music – a power beyond words which communicates both deeply and truly. (1994)

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. *A Child's Book of Midrash: 52 Jewish Stories from the Sages.* Jason Aronson, 1990. Drawn from the Talmud and other rabbinic writings, these stories, which display humor, mystery, adventure and faith, are an excellent source for short, pithy stories. Some read like fairy tales, others are more philosophical. All are told simply, eloquently, and carry a universal message of respect for the lives of others. (1992)

Hamilton, Martha and Mitch Weiss. *Children Tell Stories: A Teaching Guide.* Richard C. Owen Publishers, 1990. An infectiously enthusiastic book on the methods and merits of teaching storytelling to children. As one child wrote, "I'm not a good reader. But everyone said I'm a good storyteller." This book is imaginative, inspiring, easy to read, and

tremendously engaging, with superlative photographs which attest to the project's success. (1992)

Hamilton, Virginia. *The Girl Who Spun Gold.* Blue Sky Press, 2000. The late Virginia Hamilton, noted author and storyteller, retells a West Indian variant of the Little Man (Rumpelstiltskin) story, with lilting speech patterns and dialect. The story's action is told in cadence and rhythm that sing out. An intriguing departure from other Rumpelstiltskin tales you may have heard, this one has a maiden, Quashiba, who grows with the story and brings about a surprise ending. (2002)

Hamilton, Virginia. *When Birds Could Talk and Bats Could Sing.* Scholastic, 1996. This collection from one of America's most widely honored authors includes eight tales first collected from slaves on Southern plantations. Retold in vibrant colloquial speech and written in cante fable style, each story includes verse and a concluding moral. Listeners will love these irresistible feathered folk, who fussed and squabbled just like human folk in the days when the animals could talk. (1998)

Haskins, James. *Delivering Justice: W. W. Law and the Fight for Civil Rights.* Candlewick, 2005. Law's grandmother's admonition to "Be somebody!" echoed throughout his life. This moving, picture book biography tells the story of a U.S. postal carrier in segregated Savannah, who delivered more than mail to citizens in the city he loved. Westley Wallace Law became a catalyst in the Great Savannah Boycott that brought equality through nonviolence three years before the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Law's story affirms that an "ordinary" person CAN "be somebody," profoundly and gracefully transforming a divided world. (2007)

Hayes, Joe, retell. *Dance, Nana, Dance/Baila, Nana, Baila: Cuban Folktales in English and Spanish.* Cinco Puntos Press, 2007. Storyteller Joe Hayes has been visiting Cuba since 2001 when he was first entranced by the hospitable people and their heartwarming tales they lovingly share. These stories he collected offer a glimpse of Cubans' fun-filled zest for life, joy and love of song and dance. (2009)

Hearne, Betsy. *Beauties and Beasts.* Oryx Press, 1993. Twenty-seven stories containing 'beauty and beast' motifs are assembled by Hearne. While each is interesting in its own right, they are even more interesting in relation to one another. Perhaps the most valuable portion of this book is the essay. "In the Dark with Disney" in which Hearne elucidates why the popular animated film is less satisfying psychologically than the folktales

which inspired it. There is much food for thought in this book that is simultaneously lively and learned. (1994)

Henderson, Kathy. *Lugalbanda, The Boy Who Got Caught Up in a War*. Candlewick, 2006. Quite possibly the oldest written story in the world, Lugalbanda's tale resonates today. When Lugalbanda and his seven older brothers follow their king into battle, the goddess of love and war withholds her favor, dooming them to failure. Lugalbanda's kindness and courage become forces for peace. The author's lyrical and spare retelling of this long-lost epic from ancient Iraq is nothing short of breathtaking. (2007)

Henson, Heather. *That Book Woman*. Atheneum, 2008. Henson's spare and simple tale was "inspired by the true and courageous work of the Pack Horse Librarians...in the Appalachian mountains of Kentucky." Call it a poem, a story, or a monologue, this earnest first person account, with its rhythmic mountain vernacular, reads beautifully and will move all who take a love of books and reading for granted. (2009)

Hicks, Ray. *The Jack Tales*. Callaway Editions, 2000. Beloved storyteller at the National Storytelling Festival, the late Ray Hicks shares three rollicking adventures of Jack as only he could relate them, retelling the tales he heard from his grandfather on Beech Mountain in North Carolina. The bonus is to hear Ray's inimitable voice and dialect on the accompanying CD, which offers the listener the unique experience of hearing the stories directly in the oral tradition. Ray was a treasure, and so is this opportunity to have his stories from him. (2002)

Holt, David and Bill Mooney, editors. *More Ready to Tell Tales From Around the World*. August House, 2000. This multicultural anthology has much to offer. Its stories are proven audience pleasers that provide cultural windows and a deep understanding of our universal humanity. It also serves as a star-studded introduction to the renowned storytellers who have made these globe spanning tales part of their repertoires. The selections are divided according to type – such as comic, wisdom, fools, and tricksters, as well as according to theme - codes of conduct, benediction, wheel of fortune, family and community. Well known tellers themselves, Holt and Mooney encourage us to enliven and rejoice in storytelling by putting our stories in our own words and infusing them with our own unique personalities. (2002)

Jaffe, Nina. *A Voice for the People: The Life and Work of Harold Courlander*. Holt, 1997. A unique biography of Harold Courlander whose appreciation of all human cultures, as presented through music, story, and folk ways, has left an indelible mark on storytelling.

Courlander recorded his culturally authentic stories directly from the people, putting them in context, and setting the standard for future collectors and tellers. Jaffe tells his story with profound respect, weaving together interviews, stories, and archival research in a highly readable homage. (1998)

Jaffe, Nina and Steve Zeitlin. *While Standing on One Foot: Puzzle Stories and Wisdom Tales from the Jewish Tradition.* HoIt, 1992. Non-violent solutions to seemingly insoluble situations stress agile thinking and creative perspective. Jaffe and Zeitlin begin a story and pause at the climax to allow us to try to devise an appropriate resolution. They then reveal how the ancients answered these riddles. Witty and ingenious. these conundrums beg to be used wherever ethics, justice and peaceful coexistence are discussed. (1996)

Jaquith, Priscilla. *Bo Rabbit Smart for True: Tall Tales from the Gullah.* Philomel, 1995. Variants of the Br'er Rabbit stories, as told by the Gullah people from the Sea Isles off the coasts of the Carolinas and Georgia, are beguiling in their humor and the cadence of their language. Jaquith's retellings make them accessible to modern audiences, yet preserve the flavor and rhythm of the original phrasing. This collection brims with vitality and good sense. (1996)

Johnson-Davies, Denys. *Goha the Wise Fool.* Philomel Books, 2005. Fifteen entertaining tales about Goha—the wise, the fool, the trickster! These humorous stories mine the riches of Middle Eastern storytelling traditions to remind us that sometimes laughter reveals the wisdom in our foolishness. (2007)

Keding, Dan. *Stories of Hope and Spirit: Folktales from Eastern Europe.* August House, 2004. With unexpected twists and turns, a dozen Balkan tales explore great folkloric themes. Thus, justice comes to Mareshka, an ill-treated stepdaughter, from “the council of the twelve months of the year” which is presided over by January, the oldest and most powerful. In another story, three lazy boys dig up an entire field searching for wealth, only to find the “gold” their father wanted them to find in work itself. Told to the author by his Croatian grandmother, these tales will lure storytellers in search of little-known material that is sure to surprise and intrigue their audiences. (2004)

Keding Dan. *United States of Storytelling: Folktales and True Stories for the Eastern States.* and ***United States of Storytelling: Folktales and True Stories for the Western States.*** Libraries Unlimited, 2010. Dan Keding brings forty years of folklore research, storytelling experience and enriching relationships with colleagues to bear on this

vast and valuable resource. This two volume set - separated into Eastern or Western regions of USA – comprised of folktales, history and biography presents stories from all 50 States. Each volume highlights our rich and diverse cultural past; each celebrates regional histories, memorable persons and standout events. Accessible for elementary and middle school children, this anthology moves a dim past into the light of the now. (2011)

Kesey, Ken. *Little Tricker the Squirrel Meets Big Double the Bear.* Viking, 1990. When the biggest bear goes on a hungry rampage, only sassy Little Tricker the Squirrel outwits this formidable enemy. Kesey treats his audience, of any age, to a generous helping of sly, down-home humor, chock full of images that beg to be shared aloud. (1992)

Kimmel, Eric. *The Spotted Pony: A Collection of Hanukkah Stories.* Holiday House, 1992. Eight tales, one for each night of Hanukkah, make this a fine collection for families celebrating either the holiday itself or Jewish traditions throughout the year. The tales feature foolish Chelmites, wise rabbis, sagacious King Solomon and that clever trickster, Herschel of Ostropol in a collection of winsome and engaging tales. (1994)

Knudson, Barbara. *How the Guinea Fowl Got Her Spots.* Carolrhoda, 1990. A Swahili "pourquoi" story relating how the Cow gave her friend Nganga her protective coloration. The vivid, direct language makes this an ideal choice for beginning storytellers. (1992)

Laird, Elizabeth. *Pea Boy and Other Stories from Iran.* Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2010. One of the great gifts of stories is the glimpse it offers into unfamiliar cultures. Elizabeth Laird's picture-book anthology displays the humor and humanity of Iran in its stories. Her retellings bring a fresh voice to universal motifs, whether it is the hero hidden in the fool or the hungry sparrow – the weakest - who has the last laugh in discovering his strength. With natural speaking cadences, her style invites us to pass on ancient tales that teach lessons about the truer meanings of wealth, loyalty, family and life, without moralizing. (2011)

Lelooska (Chief) and Christine Normandin. *Spirit of The Cedar People.* DK Publishing, 1998. These five tales of the world's beginnings, rich in the spirit of the Kwakiutl people, sparkle with a stately humor and resonate with the beauty of first truths. Here Raven, Ant and Bear, puffins, halibuts and loons strut against the rugged backdrop of the Northwest Coast. Here animals and humans, one and the same, may change their shapes at will. Here legends unfold, making sense of the world and setting forth its rules. Alive with the "plenipotential" beings of an embryonic age, *Spirit of the Cedar People* is the

embodiment of Martin's *The Way of the Human Being*, below. At once particular and universal, it is a powerful and engaging reminder of who we are and where we have been. (2000)

Lester, Julius. *Further Tales of Uncle Remus: The Misadventures of Brer Rabbit, Brer Wolf, the Doodang, and Other Creatures*. Dial, 1990. Thirty-three Black American folktales in which the animals exhibit human foibles. Lester updates the stories with tongue-in-cheek, contemporary references. His relaxed narrative with conversational asides is an ideal voice for these enduring favorites. (1992)

Lester, Julius. *On Writing for Children and Other People*. Dial, 2004. Julius Lester gives many definitions of "story" in this extraordinary memoir that charts his evolution as a storyteller. He reflects on the impact of religious, racial, social and familial influences. He philosophically explores issues of creative writing, the life of the imagination and the power of story. Most importantly, Lester shares his passion for stories— those we hear, tell, and live. As he says, "Story makes us more human to each other." And less lonely. Everyone who cares about connecting stories with children will find nourishment in this encouraging book. Seek it out; it offers nothing less than a moving, life-changing experience. (2004)

Levine, Ellen. *Freedom's Children: Young Civil Rights Activists Tell Their Own Stories*. Putnam, 1992. Thirty African-Americans who were children and teen-agers active in the civil rights movement of the 1950's and 60's tell the stories of their experiences in this intensely moving volume. Levine presents their first-hand accounts so that the setting and the temper of the times are vivid. The resolve and courage of these young people are made immediate and profoundly inspiring. (1996)

Lin, Grace. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*. Little Brown and Company, 2009. In the shadow of Fruitless Mountain, it is said, all things are brown and dull—all things but a girl called Minli. Nurtured and spurred on by her father's stories, Minli journeys to find the Old Man of the Moon in order to improve her family's and her people's fortune. From the opening words of these stories-within-a-story, Lin casts a once-upon-a-time-spell that resonates with the essence and meaning of folktale. A breath-taking demonstration of how fully the stories we are steeped in become our truth, shape our quests and lead us home. (2011)

Lottridge, Celia Barker. *Ten Small Tales*. Margaret K. McElderry, 1994. Ms. Lottridge's delightful, pithy style makes this collection suitable for pre-schoolers as well as a fine source for beginning storytellers. The familiar, such as the tale about the giant turnip, are

interspersed with the less-known, such as the one about a boy who transforms himself into a peanut. A worthy addition for this insatiable age group. (1996)

Lunge-Larsen, Lise. *The Troll with No Heart in His Body: And Other Tales of Trolls from Norway*. Houghton Mifflin Co., 1999. The author, who grew up in Norway, tells nine troll stories in a wonderfully fresh and authentic voice. In her notes she shares her own childhood experiences: seeing trolls in the stark Scandinavian landscape, loving these scary yet comfortably familiar stories that embody such sturdy values as courage, endurance, following one's dreams, and believing in the triumph of good over evil. This is a lovely and accessible collection by a popular storyteller who carefully details her sources and gives us the reasons for any changes and choices she has made so as to share the riches embodied in these ancient Norse tales, here and now. (2002)

MacDonald, Margaret Read. *Go to Sleep, Gecko!* August House, 2006. When fireflies disturb Gecko's sleep, he complains to Elephant and demands: "Do something about it!" But Elephant reminds Gecko (and us) of nature's delectable equations and the essential lesson that in life: "Some things you just have to put up with." (2007)

MacDonald, Margaret Read and Brian W. Sturm. *The Storyteller's Sourcebook: A Subject, Title, and Motif Index To Folklore Collections For Children. 1983-1999*. Gale Group, 2001. All storytellers, experienced or novice, will be enormously grateful that MacDonald and Sturm have updated the MacDonald's original Storyteller's Sourcebook. The new edition indexes 210 folktale collections and 790 picture books, all recently published. The sourcebook includes title, subject, tale motif, and geographic and ethnic indexes. Selections come from the Children's Catalog 1983-1999 and from Booklist 1983-1999. This is an indispensable resource for all storytellers. (2002)

Maguire, Jack. *The Power of Personal Storytelling: Spinning Tales To Connect With Others*. J. P. Tarcher/Putnam, 1998. Professional storyteller Jack Maguire calls on us to probe our memories for those personal stories which have shaped and given meaning to our lives. First he shares his own stories, then outlines step-by-step activities to get us going. Theory and practice merge in this eloquent and inspiring appeal. For experienced or would-be storytellers, and all who would seek to communicate more effectively, enhance personal and professional relationships, and understand themselves. (2000)

Marcantonio, Patricia Santos. *Red Ridin' in the Hood and Other Cuentos*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2005. The straw of classic plots is spun into gold by the language and point of view of Latino culture. The alterations give the eleven stories a new life. An excellent

glossary supports bilingual storytelling. Like *The Three Chicharrones* – little pigs – these stories are not built of pinon sticks but of sturdy adobe bricks that will last and stand proudly in rural, urban and suburban landscapes. (2007)

Martin, Calvin Luther. *The Way of The Human Being.* Yale University Press, 1999.

When Europeans first landed on the American continent, they viewed indigenous Americans through an Anglo-European prism. For the next three-hundred years these newcomers missed, and worse, dismissed the storied, spiritual, lively, humorous, generous and profoundly intelligent world views of the first Americans. In this seminal work, Martin, drawing upon experiences living with Alaskan Eskimos and Navajos, introduces the reader to Indian worlds filled with grace, interrelatedness among all living and non-living things, and reciprocity, worlds that, above all else, were and are participatory. In these worlds, stories are the living tissue that binds, connects, reveals to us the many manifestations of life and how we humans may live in harmony and beauty. Martin illuminates what others who have worked with indigenous people on other continents have begun to process: indigenous wisdom, the dominant wisdom for 99% of human time, is eerily close to what scientists are discovering in Quantum Mechanics and Chaos theory, and, as such, has much to teach the modern world about the way of the human being. (2000)

Martin, Francesca. *Clever Tortoise.* Candlewick Press. 2000. In this warm, orally infused retelling of an old story, it seems anything but old---fresh as new rain after drought time. Boastful Elephant starts the quarrel: "See how big I am? . . . I am stronger than all of you little animals!" And she starts trampling and spoiling the forest before Hippopotamus jumps right in, insisting she is the strongest. Clever Tortoise has other ideas, and soon the other small animals, working through "star time", help Clever Tortoise with his oh-so-clever plan to teach those two braggarts a lesson. The conversation rings true, the descriptions delight. In short, the author's mastery of African village storytelling will bring each storyteller and attendant listener right to the fire. (2002)

Martin, Rafe. *The Hungry Tigress: Buddhist Legends and Jataka Tales.* Parallax Press, 1990. The largest collection of Buddhist legends available in English, includes tales from the days when the Buddha lived in various animal forms as well as stories of the Buddha's historic and mythic-symbolic life. Written in tellable form, the tales concern values of courage, perseverance, love, humor and respect. Commentaries that explain the stories in context of Buddhist philosophy and teachings are also included. (1992)

Martin, Rafe. *Mysterious Tales of Japan.* Putnam, 1996. In one story the moaning winter wind belongs to the snow woman who yearns for her lost children and home; in

another a down-on-his-luck samurai deserts his loving wife and finally returns, driven by guilt and remorse, to spend his night with a black haired skeleton. Combining elements of Shinto and Buddhism, these eerie tales reflect the strange realities that are often lived in everyday life. (1998)

May, Rollo. *The Cry for Myth*. W.W. Norton, 1991. The eminent psychoanalyst Rollo May wrote: "Myths are like the beams in a house; not exposed to outside view, they are the structure which holds the house together so people can live in it." This is true for both society at large and the psychology of the individual. Exploring diverse myths from oral and written literature, May reveals them to be landmarks, providing direction and a sense of community in an alienated, morally confusing world. (1992)

McCann, Michelle and Luba Tryszynska-Frederick. *Luba: the Angel of Bergen-Belsen*. Tricycle Press, 2004. Against the depravity and despair perpetrated by Nazis in concentration camps, stands one woman whose compassion and altruism moved others to help her care for fifty-four children in Bergen-Belsen. A story for older students and adults, segments of this aurally satisfying biography also can stand alone. The story "like the woman herself" attracts us through a modest, tender and confiding tone. Shattering ennui and cynicism, *then and now*, Luba bears witness to the fact that goodness is as contagious as fear. Pass it on! (2004)

McCaughrean, Geraldine. *Gilgamesh the Hero*. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2003. An epic as old as love, anger, fear and hope chronicles an unlikely friendship between Gilgamesh, a powerful king, and Enkidu, a wild man. Together, their bond defeats monsters and mythical beasts, while it infuriates goddesses and mortals alike. Danger hovers ever near, yet when death comes for Enkidu, the mighty king sinks into despair. Searching to resolve his anguish, Gilgamesh travels to the end of the world and back again before he grasps that his happiness depends on his willingness to feel hope again. With dynamic and lyrical language, McCaughrean creates a tellable version of a classic tale. (2004)

McDermott, Gerald. *Zomo, the Rabbit*. Harcourt Brace, 1992. The clever, fleet footed Zomo, an African cousin of Brer Rabbit, is able to outsmart his more dangerous opponents to ultimately gain the wisdom he seeks from Sky God. Caldecott Award winner, Gerald McDermott takes a tale with many levels of subtle complexity and manages the remarkable feat of telling it in language so simple, streamlined and powerful that it will capture the imaginations of you and old alike. (1994)

McGill, Alice. *Sure as Sunrise.* Houghton Mifflin, 2004. In this fine collection of stories by Alice McGill, the always clever, always tricky Bruh Rabbit and friends bounce in and out of trouble with style and humor that is true to the oral tradition from which they sprang. Upon hearing these tales, listeners of all ages will get caught up in Bruh Rabbit's laugh-out-loud adventures. Like the storytellers who told these stories to Alice McGill as a child, Ms. McGill also seems to be an eyewitness to the goings-on of these fascinating creatures. Her voice lends authority and sparkle to tales that children will beg to hear, and hear again. (2004)

McGill, Alice. *Way Up and Over Everything.* Houghton, 2008. A family story passed down by the author's great-great-grandmother Jane, tells of slaves yearning for freedom and the magical powers that enable them to escape and "disappear into thin air." Alice McGill remembers her great-grandmother sharing the story "as if unveiling a great, wonderful secret" and that she and her siblings long believed that certain Africans shared this gift of "taking to the air –way up and over everything." Alice McGill's book is a wonderful addition to a storyteller's repertoire. (2009)

McKissack, Patricia. *Porch Lies: Tales of Slicksters, Tricksters, and Other Wily Characters.* Schwarz & Wade Books, 2006. McKissack recreates the sense of family and friends relishing stories on a summer's evening. Settle in and savor these ten savvy - and sly - tales that are told in a decidedly Southern cadence. (2007)

McKissack, Patricia and Frederick L. McKissack. *Let My People Go: Bible Stories Told By A Freeman Of Color.* Atheneum, 1998. Struggling to make sense of the injustices she lives with in the ante bellum South, a young black girl draws nourishment from her father's stories-both those from the Bible and those he weaves from the world of American slavery. Thus the tale of how Queen Esther saved her people is paired with one of a brave New Orleans woman who rescues a group of soon-to-be-auctioned slaves from a burning building, thereby revealing the fact that she has all the while been passing as white. With additional stories of ancient Jews--Moses, the Exodus, David and Goliath--paralleling those of African Americans, what emerges is a reading of the Bible that is as radiant and deeply felt as the hunger for freedom on American soil. (2000)

Medicine Story. *The Children of the Morning Light: Wampanoag Tales as Told by Manitonquat.* Macmillan, 1994. These ageless creation tales, set down by a gifted Native storyteller, resonate with the spirit and traditional wisdoms of the Wampanoag people. Rich in ancient truths, contemporary humor, and universal sensibilities, these are living,

breathing tales that continue to grow in the telling. A testament to the power of stories to teach, remember, and to inspire. (1996)

Myers, Tim. *Tanuki's Gift: A Japanese Tale*. Marshall Cavendish, 2003. In contrast to the veneer of materialism, this quiet story plumbs the depths of the contemplative life and the priceless gift of friendship. A Buddhist priest opens his door to a tanuki, a small badger-like animal, one bitterly cold night. Over successive winters, they open their hearts to one another and their friendship grows. When the tanuki disappears to find three gold coins to repay the priest for his kindness, the priest discovers the true meaning of friendship. Though Myers' retelling offers a happier ending to an ancient Japanese "debt of gratitude" story, the core of the story remains undisturbed. The tale is so satisfying that after it's grasped, it immediately wants to be expressed. (2004)

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Mama Miti*. Simon and Schuster, 2010. Inspired by the stories of her elders in the highlands of Africa, Nobel Peace Prize recipient Wangari Maathai set Kenya on a path of recovery. As women came to her in desperation with problems rooted in Kenya's decimated landscape, Wangari gave them tree seedlings to plant. Each seedling was given with the blessing: "Thayu nyumba, Peace, my People". Millions of seedlings replenished both the land and its people. With rich cadences and repetition, this is an aurally satisfying story. Donna Jo Napoli shows how one woman brought extraordinary transformations to restore a ravaged earth: one act of kindness, one tree at a time. (2011)

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. *Bad News for Outlaws: the Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal*. Carolrhoda, 2009. Bass Reeves, an estimable shot, always got his man! Born into slavery, this outstanding deputy marshal captured over 3,000 people during thirty-two years of service in the Oklahoma territory. Nelson brings an unsung western hero to life in several vignettes that show why he earned the admiration of folks across the frontier - African Americans, European Americans, Hispanic Americans and Native Americans - for Reeves was as brave as he was honest. A story with true grit! (2011)

Ness, Caroline. *The Ocean of Story: Fairy Tales from India*. Lothrop, 1995. The incredibly rich storytelling tradition of the Indian subcontinent is the source mined by this collection of nineteen tales. Some are brief enough to be told in a minute or two, while others are so intricate as to require a half-hour to recount. Intervention by the gods, the triumph of a ready wit, the inevitability of fate and kindness to all living creatures are

among the themes woven through this anthology. A wide-ranging introduction to a complex legacy. (1998)

Norman, Howard. *The Girl Who Dreamed Only Geese and Other Tales of the Far North.* Harcourt, Brace, 1997. Ten folktales elucidate the culture, drama and humor of life in the Far North. Sometimes harsh, sometimes slapstick, sometimes mysterious, and sometimes wry, they provide windows to our understanding of a still-living tradition of storytelling which has been little available in children's literature. (1998)

Oberman, Sheldon. *Solomon and the Ant: And Other Jewish Folktales.* Boyds Mills Press, 2006. In his final masterwork, Oberman retells forty-three stories from contemplative Biblical tales through popular folktales. An entertaining treasure trove of Jewish folk literature for professional or novice storytellers, this collection is both delightful for family bedtimes and satisfying for scholars. (2007)

Orgel, Doris, retell. *Doctor All-Knowing: A Folk Tale from the Brothers Grimm.* Atheneum, 2008. The story of the poor country woodcutter who becomes Doctor All-Knowing with just a sign, a suit and a sublime belief that he knows what he is doing, is a feast for both tellers and listeners. Based on a little-known Grimm Brothers folk tale, Doris Orgel's wondrously silly book is just what the doctor ordered. (2009)

Paterson, Katherine. *The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks.* Lodestar, 1990. Newbery prize winning Paterson retells a Japanese tale with beautiful simplicity, weaving together complex elements—a double love story, an expression of the values that make love possible, and an understanding of the interconnected needs of animals and their human counterparts. (1992)

Paye, Won-Ldy and Margaret H. Lippert. *Mrs. Chicken and the Hungry Crocodile.* Henry Holt and Company, 2003. A slightly narcissistic chicken becomes the potential dinner of a crocodile. Using quick thinking and quicker wit, Mrs. Chicken's captor soon believes they are sisters and, therefore, Mrs. Chicken should not become dinner. This traditional Dan story from northeastern Liberia was passed down by Paye's grandmother, who trained him from childhood to be a storyteller. His short and colorful version serves as an excellent selection for first-time tellers and seasoned tellers alike. (2004)

Paye, Won-Ldy and Margaret H. Lippert. *Why Leopard Has Spots: Dan Stories From Liberia.* Raintree, 1998; Fulcrum Publishing, 1999. An intriguing collection of authentic "how-and-why" tales from the Dan peoples of the western African nation of

Liberia. Wrought with humor, these seemingly nonsensical animal stories are literary treasure-troves, rich in the storytelling tradition that marks the foundation of Dan culture. Embedded with African folklore, each witty story provides both listeners and storytellers with universal values and lessons to live by. A comprehensive glossary and a storytellers' guide are welcome additions to this superb contribution to the rich legacy of the African storyteller. (2000)

Pelly, Kathleen T. *Magnus Maximus, A Marvelous Measurer*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2010. Magnus Maximus is a marvelous measurer; of that, everyone agrees. He measures and counts unexpected things, described in quirky language as fun for the teller or reader as it is for listeners. Magnus's shining moment comes when he saves his town from an escaped lion by startling it into being measured. When his glasses later get broken—crick, crack, crickle—a boy named Michael, a day at the beach, and “the foamy white crests of the waves and the snugness of a hand in a hand” help Magnus to the thoroughly satisfying realization of what he had been missing in his life. A marvelous (and very tellable) tale! (2011)

Pelton, Mary Helen and Jacqueline DiGennaro. *Images of a People: Tlingit Myths and Legends*. Libraries Unlimited, 1992. After years of painstaking research, the authors respectfully present Tlingit tales, illuminating the stories by placing them within a wealth of material on the history, social structures, religious beliefs and art of the Tlingits of Alaska. This is a valuable source for more than twenty stories from an indomitable people whose voices have not often been heard within the contiguous states. It provides a fascinating window into a way of life that has much to teach those who live in less formidable circumstance. (1994)

Perrault, Charles. *The Complete Fairy Tales of Charles Perrault*. Clarion, 1992. A new translation, notable for its adherence to Perrault's original and compelling for its departures from more familiar retellings of his tales. Complete down to Perrault's rhymed, often biting morality, it is sophisticated in tone, calculated to engage, amuse titillate and astound an adult audience. The introduction and notes by Neal Philips provide historical context for Perrault's accomplishments and provenance for his tales. (1996)

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation*. Greenwillow, 2008. Andrea Davis Pinkney and her illustrator husband, Brian have created a blues ballad that sings and, ultimately, shouts the joyous tale of the foot-weary seamstress and the people of Montgomery Alabama who changed the world with their

courage. *Boycott Blues* is a hymn to the power of shoes, determination and unremitting hope. (2009)

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down.* Little Brown and Company, 2010. Without overwhelming young listeners and without minimizing the ferocity directed against those who answered Dr. King's call to non-violent protest, Andrea Davis Pinkney serves up a satisfying helping of Civil Rights history. Pinkney achieves this synergy by celebrating the heroes, by focusing on their resolute strength, by seasoning events in delectable food metaphors and rhythmic language. Pinkney's recipe for racial equality is savory and, ultimately, joyous. Dig in! Then feed the world. Time-line with suggested readings offers more food for thought. (2011)

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Sojourner Truth's Step-Stomp Stride.* Disney/Jump at the Sun Books, 2009. In a commanding biography of Sojourner Truth, Andrea Davis Pinkney tells a rhythmic tale of how bravery and determination can change the world. Isabella, who can work like a man, is denied freedom when the man who enslaved her breaks their agreement. But she will not be denied! After she escapes with help from Quakers, she chooses the name Sojourner Truth and leads others to freedom's door. Her physical strength is exceeded only by her perseverance, her intelligence and the earthshaking words with which she stomps on the lies of slavery and sings out the righteousness of freedom and women's rights. (2011)

Polacco, Patricia. *January's Sparrow.* Philomel Books, 2009. Throughout the impersonal arc of recorded history, dignity, suffering, and bravery always have names and faces. The enslaved Crosswhite family escaped to Marshall, Michigan in 1843. The community's activism in saving the family from recapture in 1847 is a story for our time. The story, itself, would have been forgotten had it not been held collectively for generations by Marshall's citizens and retold to Patricia Polacco. This is the transcendent power of the Oral Tradition: To preserve and bear witness to otherwise unrecorded historical events with nuanced truths of humanity's potential for grace and goodness in the face of inhuman suffering. These traits, which advance and deepen our humanity, bear the repeated tellings that preserve them in our collective memory and carry them, more securely than any technology, into the future. (2011)

Porte, Barbara Ann. *Hearsay: Strange Tales from the Middle Kingdom.* Greenwillow, 1998. The author dazzles us with fantastic images taken from Chinese history and folklore, in this splendidly original array of tales. Court magicians, warrior

crickets in jeweled cages, dragons who weep pearls, concubines with cherry lips, and a ghost peddling knishes in China's long ago Jewish community parade across these pages, surprising us at every turn with their cleverness, courage and ability to survive life's strangest twists of fate. For storytellers in search of material never heard before, as well as that which is as visual in nature as it is entertaining, this will truly be a find. (2000)

Prose, Francine. *You Never Know: A Legend Of The Lamed-Vavniks.* Greenwillow, 1998. The town of Plotchnik has had no rain for forty days. The worthy townsfolk and their Rabbi pray in vain, until the shoemaker Schmuel--secretly called "poor stupid Schmuel" because of his senseless acts of generosity--adds his prayer. Then rain pours down for forty days and nights and they all pray for it to stop, without avail, until Schmuel prays again--and the rain stops instantly! The Rabbi ponders the question and learns the answer in a dream. Poor Schmuel, who has quietly left town after the "miracle", is one of 36 righteous men (the Lamed-Vavniks) who according to ancient Jewish tradition live in the world unrecognized by their fellow men and whose prayers are always heard. Told with disarming simplicity, gentle humor, and absolutely no moralizing, this legend imparts its message about the power of prayer and the need for tolerance with memorable wit and grace. (2000)

Reneaux, J. J. *Cajun Folktales.* August House, 1992. Having grown up "Cajun for true", Reneaux fills this spicy gumbo of tales from rural southeastern Texas and southern Louisiana with the unmistakable joie de vivre that is the spirit of Cajun life. Sometimes sly, sometimes scary, sometimes fanciful, these tales tell of a time when "Kings came to live on bayous (and) Princesses ate couche-couchez" This great taste of folklore is unique in American culture. (1994)

Reneaux, J. J. *How the Animals Saved the People.* Harper Collins, 2001. The late, acclaimed storyteller J.J. Reneaux serves up a tangy gumbo of tales told in the Deep South from the Cajun, Creole, Native American, African American and Scotch-Irish-German traditions. Not only varied in its ethnic mix, this collection also boasts a wide array of themes. There is the humorous porquoi tale of how Miz Gator's once "beautiful, smooth-as-silk, pea green suit" came to be "scorched into a tough hide, greenish brown like the Mississippi", thanks to the mischief of Br'er Rabbit. The title story about how such animals as snakes, bees and spiders absorbed poison from the vine into their bodies in order to save their fellow creatures - those two-legged human beings - conveys an environmental message that is both sensitive and thought provoking. (2002)

Ross, Gayle. *How Rabbit Tricked Otter and Other Cherokee Trickster Stories.*

HarperCollins, 1994. Fifteen tales about Rabbit, the trickster-hero who is central to the Cherokee storytelling tradition. Ross' voice is clear and convincing; the stories have an infectious liveliness that makes their insights easy to absorb. Beginning and experienced storytellers will find sure-fire material here. (1996)

Salley, Coleen. *Epossumondas Plays Possum.* Houghton Mifflin/Harcourt, 2009.

Warned by his mama to never go into the swamp, Epossumondas follows a butterfly in anyway. Soon lost he learns that the best way to avoid the dangerous loup-garou is to play dead - as any good possum would. This tale is made for beginning tellers and pros alike. Epossumondas will warm your heart and make you yearn for sweet tea and sunshine! (2011)

Say, Allen. *The Kamishibai Man.* Houghton Mifflin, 2005. Amid the cacophony of a modern Japanese city, past and present fuse unexpectedly as a crowd of adults voice their joy at the return of their childhood storyteller, the Kamishibai man. With his "paper theater" and candies, the elderly storyteller tenderly bundles up the past making it a gift for the future. (2007)

Schlitz, Laura Amy, adapt. *The Bearskin: A Tale of the Brothers Grimm.*

Candlewick, 2007. A soldier returning from war strikes a bargain with the devil and must wander the world for seven years dressed only in a bear's skin. This "tale of the brothers Grimm" is enhanced by the measured tones and haunting images of Schlitz' powerful retelling. And, in an intriguing twist, it is the middle and not the youngest daughter who perceives the Bearskin's true character and agrees to be his wife. A compelling and unforgettable celebration of the strength and endurance of the human spirit from the Newbery Award winning author of *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!* (2009)

Schram, Peninnah, retell. *The Hungry Clothes and Other Jewish Folktales.* Sterling Publishing, 2008. Humorous, sly, wise, and moving, this lively collection of Jewish folktales is embedded with ancient values that uphold the Jewish faith and retold in a fresh manner that makes them unforgettable to young and old alike. Each story is preceded by an annotation by the author that brings each story into sharp focus. A glossary and source notes will aid scholars and storytellers alike. (2009)

Schram, Peninnah and Howard Schwartz. *Stories within Stories.* Jason Aaronson, 2000. This deep and varied collection is drawn from Talmudic and Midrashic sources, medieval texts, the oral tradition of Middle Eastern countries, and particularly the Israel

Folktale Archives. Beautifully told, these tales are at times contained within others like kernels, or linked together like precious jewels on a chain, or surrounded by a different story as by a frame. There is something here for everyone: humor and romance as well as moral and religious themes. The author's introduction provides great insight into the history and traditions that underlie the tales, while the stories themselves lead us to a greater understanding of the human heart. (2002)

Schwartz, Howard and Barbara Rush. *A Coat For The Moon And Other Jewish Tales.* Jewish Publication Society, 1999. A glorious compendium of Jewish stories from around the world, these tales provide intriguing glimpses into the world of magic, the supernatural, enchantment, nature, and royalty. As playful as they are, the stories remain respectful of the entities they represent. The delightfully charming title tale personifies the moon: through perseverance, ordinary tailors take on the extraordinary task of creating a coat for the moon. They do succeed and so do these stories. The sky's the limit, and these tales are sure to find a cozy way to warm the hearts of many. (2000)

Schwartz, Howard and Barbara Rush. *The Wonder Child and other Jewish Fairy Tales.* Harper Collins, 1996. Enchanted princes and princesses, giants, imps, demons, and werewolves populate this splendid collection of Jewish fairy tales from Eastern Europe and the Near East. Elements of "Snow White," "Rumpelstiltskin," "The Fisherman and His Wife," and other well-known tales tantalize us in these versions with a different slant. Magic with wide age appeal. (1998)

Seeger, Pete and Paul DuBois Jacobs. *Pete Seeger's Storytelling Book.* Harcourt, 2000. "Traditions of story and song belong to everyone." Pete Seeger, one of America's most beloved musicians, extends a delightful invitation to teachers, parents and grandparents to tell tales from their own lives. This book offers tempting samples – song based stories, music, past Seeger family events and accounts from American history, as well as tips on story personalization and effective lead-ins. Seeger's message is clear: he wants all of us to start storytelling traditions of our own in order to share words, ideas and history with the children in our lives. (2002)

Sierra, Judy. *Storyteller's Research Guide: Folktales, Myths and Legends.* Folkprint, 1996. Here is a nuts and bolts tool so useful and brief – it's small enough to be easily portable – that storytellers of all levels won't want to be without it. Herself an accomplished teller, Sierra provides clear definitions of often used terms in folklore, bibliographies of tellable tales and indexes to finding them. Also included are practical approaches to online

resources and the Internet as well as a down-to-earth look at fieldwork and copyright issues affecting storytellers. (1998)

Sima, Judy and Kevin Cordi. *Raising Voices: Creating Youth Storytelling Groups and Troupes.* Libraries Unlimited, 2003. Mounting evidence supports and recognizes that storytelling provides marvelous venues for the development of language skills among young people. Judy Sima and Kevin Cordi offer a reassuring blueprint, so librarians and teachers can avoid reinventing the wheel. Practical in its every suggestion, this book offers ideas for attracting kids to join a storytelling group, as well as organizational plans for both leaders and young participants. They incorporate activities to assist in learning stories, in presenting stories, and offer suggestions for raising funds. With this guide in hand, all who believe in story and its value for young storytellers will find themselves inspired and well on their way. (2004)

Smith, Barbara McBride. *Tell It Together: Foolproof Scripts for Story Theatre.* August House, 2001. Here is a collection of 23 scripts taken from myths, folktales and fiction, all kid-tested and written by a full time school librarian and renowned storyteller who was recently named Tulsa, Oklahoma's Elementary Teacher of the Year. Using narrators to move the stories forward, McBride Smith gives all characters a few lines that can easily be read aloud by children in a group ensemble that will be fun and non-threatening for even the most reluctant of young public speakers. She also provides suggestions for sound effects, simple costumes and staging that can be enjoyed by audiences of both children and adults. Not only is her choice of scripts remarkably varied – all the way from the hilarious "Bubba, the Cowboy Prince" to the haunting "Arachne and Athena" – she also encourages teachers and students alike to expand their creativity by writing scripts for stories of their own choosing. (2002)

Sobol, Joseph Daniel. *The Storytellers' Journey: An American Revival.* University of Illinois Press, 1999. Joseph Sobol, professional storyteller and folklorist, draws upon interviews with dozens of storytellers to chronicle the history of the past thirty years of American storytelling. He offers his readers an absorbing accounting of the nation's search for myth and the concurrent development of the National Storytelling Association and its annual national storytelling festival. Cited are those individuals who have most vitally influenced the renaissance of storytelling in America, among them Carol Birch and Melissa Heckler, editors of *Who Says? Essays on Pivotal Issues in Contemporary Storytelling*, who have called Sobol "our storytelling anthropologist. His book is original, insightful, and leavened with humor and compassion, offering a deep exploration of the territory we've traveled and a glimpse of future possibilities." (2000)

Spaulding, Amy. *The Wisdom of Storytelling in an Information Age.* Scarecrow Press, 2004. Information is important, but wisdom is invaluable. Spaulding, a professor at Long Island University's Palmer School of Library and Information Science, makes an eloquent and passionate case for storytelling as a path to wisdom. In a collection of talks – some to students, some to parent groups – she illuminates the value and relevance of storytelling in our technologically-driven society. She addresses how stories nurture imagination and creativity, how listening to stories differs from reading, and the idea of stories as social glue. Insightful, provocative writing demonstrates the vitality and efficacy of storytelling to our contemporary life. (2004)

Tatar, Maria. *The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales.* W.W. Norton & Company, 2002. This splendid collection includes Tatar's new translations of twenty-six well-known fairy tales and numerous annotations with historical, psychological and literary details. It has biographies of well-known authors, collectors and illustrators and information about the influence of illustrations upon reader's response to the stories. Storytellers will appreciate it as a resource for great stories to tell and for interesting supplemental, interpretive material. (2002)

Thomas, Elizabeth Marshall. *The Old Way: A Story of the First People.* Sarah Crichton Books/Farrar Straus Giroux, 2006. Modern storytelling traditions are deeply rooted in the old way. Thomas, one of America's wise elders, illuminates the central role of storytelling in preserving and perpetuating vital cultural values through countless generations. As the Ju/'hoansi and /Gwi of Southern Africa strive to reconcile their ancient hunting/gathering way of life with the demands of the modern world, their complex stories provide moving testimony to the tensile strength of storytelling. (2007)

Tingle, Tim. *Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom.* Cinco Puntos Press, 2006. A compassionate and daring Choctaw girl in the early 1800's helps an enslaved boy and his family walk "on the water" to freedom. In telling the story of the friendship between Martha Tom and Little Mo, and in juxtaposing the cultures of freedom and bondage, Tingle affirms "the sweet and secret fire that drives the Indian heart". (2007)

Ude, Wayne. *Maybe I Will Do Something: Seven Coyote Tales.* Houghton Mifflin, 1993. The enigmatic Coyote emerges from Ude's inventive retelling of his stories with distinct personality which illuminates his adventures. *Maybe I Will Do Something* is an outstanding example of how scholarship, imagination and reverence for traditional

storytelling can combine to produce a whole which is more than the sum of its parts.
(1996)

Walker, Barbara. *The Art of the Turkish Tale: Volume Two.* Texas Tech University Press, 1993. Thought comprising but a fraction of Walker's work in collecting Turkish folklore, this volume is a treasure trove for storytellers. Eighty narratives include variants of European stories, pourquoi tales, Islamic saints' legends, riddles, supernatural tales and humorous anecdotes. Culled from over three thousand stories recorded over a lifetime of collecting, Walker's selections are enlightening as well as entertaining. (1994)

Walsh, Jill Paton. *Matthew and the Sea Singer.* Farrar Straus Giroux, 1993. The orphan Matthew sings so beautifully birds stop their tunes to hear him and seals gather on rocks below the church to listen when he sings on Sundays. When Matthew goes missing, his friend Birdy realizes he's been stolen by the seal-folk and she with the seal queen for Matthew's return. Walsh's lilting language and deft description make her original tale a pleasure to hear. (1994)

Williamson, Duncan. *Tales of the Seal People.* Interlink, 1992. Drawn from the heart of Scottish tradition, Duncan Williamson offers fourteen selkie stories collected over a lifetime of working, traveling and befriending Gaelic speaking people in remote, coastal areas of Scotland and the outlying Hebrides Islands. Williamson notes, "These stories were never made...they were just 'something strange' that actually took place. It was family history, that's 'the truth'." (1994)

Willey, Margaret. *Clever Beatrice and the Best Little Pony.* Simon and Schuster, 2004. Once again, Willey's retelling of a French-Canadian folktale features the wonderfully clever heroine Beatrice. Beatrice is determined to apprehend the mysterious intruder who sneaks into the barn and rides her beloved pony each night. Characters such as Monsieur Le Pain, a baker known to help with matters not easily explained, and the lutin, an elflike creature who is the culprit, lend an air of magic to the tale. This captivating story is a lilting tribute to the self-sufficiency and resourcefulness of one young girl. (2004)

Winter, Jonah. *Dizzy.* Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, 2006. An abused and angry boy in a childhood of blue notes, John Birks Gillespie turns his life around when a teacher gives him a trumpet. Gillespie harnesses his unorthodox character, and penchant for being a joker, to earn the nickname "Dizzy." He breaks all the rules, becomes an influential musician and creates *bebop*. Winter's writing mimics a trumpet's highs and lows. Bursting with energy, the rhythms of this story beg to be blown off the page. (2007)

Wolkstein, Diane. *Treasures of the Heart: Holiday Stories that Reveal the Soul of Judaism*. Schocken Books, 2003. With the mind of a scholar, the spirit of a storyteller and the heart of a woman, Diane Wolkstein masterfully retells ancient holiday stories that mark the seasons of the Jewish calendar. In a compelling voice, she perceptively reworks stories translated from original Hebrew texts and places them in both historical and modern contexts. This treasury reaches out to all who claim the Old Testament as their heritage, and to everyone who appreciates the gifts of the Western canon. In spite of the complexity of the task, the stunning simplicity with which these tales are told makes them accessible to all who read, or even better, hear them aloud. (2004)

Yashinsky, Dan, ed. *Ghostwise: A Book of Midnight Stories*. August House, 1997. A masterful collection of tales, largely unfamiliar, for those who believe in "mysteries, spirits, dreams and ghosts." Collected from thirty-six of Canada's most skilled tellers, the tales are organized under five headings: Heart and Horror; Shhhz; Reaching Across; Maximum Nightmare; and Bonestories. They come from diverse cultures, and range from funny to sad to true, but all will haunt those who tell and those who listen. (1998)

Yashinsky, Dan. ***Suddenly They Heard Footsteps: Storytelling for the Twenty-First Century***. University Press of Mississippi (American Edition), 2006; Vintage Canadian (Canadian Edition), 2005. Cultural history, instruction, memoir and personal stories collide when this Canadian storyteller reflects on how storytelling grounds us in a digital sound-byte society. He explores how stories enable us to find our identity, celebrate our families, shape our lives and create communities. The art of storytelling is viewed through his decidedly philosophical, humorous, inspiring, and instructive lenses. Central to the book is his belief that the stories we give away are the only ones we keep. (2007)

Yolen, Jane. *Gray Heroes: Elder Tales From Around the World*. Penguin, 1999. Lamenting the dismal failure of popular culture to provide images of appealing, healthy, or heroic elders, we can rejoice at this collection of seventy-five tales edited by Jane Yolen. Her scholarly, yet entirely accessible, introduction provides an overview of common beliefs and folkloric motifs about old age. The stories from diverse cultures present older women and men whose lives remain vital and adventurous, whose hearts still love and quicken, whose minds are keen and lively. Newsweek called Jane Yolen the "Hans Christian Andersen of America" and The New York Times dubbed her the "Aesop of the twentieth century". We recognize her as a gifted storyteller and one of our own gray heroes. (2000)

Yolen, Jane. *Greyling*. Philomel Books, 1991. A lonely fisherman and his wife long for a child until the day they discover an orphaned seal pup who turns into a little baby boy

even before he enters their cottage. A lyrical retelling by a master storyteller of a selchie story that captures the haunting essence of an old Scottish tale. (1992)

Zeitlin, Steve. *Because God Loves Stories: an Anthology of Jewish Storytelling.*

Simon and Schuster, 1997. Jewish storytelling, from Europe to the United States, is examined and celebrated in this thoughtful and witty volume. The links between humorous folktales and the humor of stand-up comedians, between the philosophies of rabbis and the philosophies of socialists, are but few of the subjects treated here. Zeitlin presents the stories and the people who tell them in such a way as to leave no doubt why Jewish storytelling is alive and well. (1998)

Zeitlin, Steve J., Amy J. Kotkin & Holly Cutting Baker. *A Celebration of American*

Family Folklore. Yellow Moon Press, 1992. For four summers beginning in 1974, thousands of people told stories about their families while attending the festival of American Folklife in Washington, D.C. This book grew out of those interviews and the result is a collection of tales which are rich in humor, pathos and inspiration. The authors encourage readers to search out their own family tales with suggestions on how to do so. This reissued book is a splendid compilation with wide-ranging appeal. (1994)