

The Anne Izard Storytellers' Choice Award

1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019.

This award was established to honor Anne Izard, the noted librarian, storyteller and Children's Services Consultant in Westchester County (NY) 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)

Best-Loved Stories Told at the National Storytelling Festival. The National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling, 1991. Here are 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)

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 women 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 cultures 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)

Crossley-Holland, Kevin. *Norse Myths.* Illustrated by Jeffrey Alan Love. Candlewick Studio, 2017. Carnegie Medal winner Kevin Crossley-Holland revisits the subject matter of his 1981 classic and brings to life a crisp new volume of tales. Tellers will appreciate the sparkling, modern language, which will entrance mythology fans as well as newcomers with no prior knowledge of these ancient stories. Ever the thoughtful folklorist, Crossley-Holland has an eye for historical detail and a deep respect for tradition. Each scene, whether of creation or destruction, of gods or monsters, is equally authentic and lyrical. (2019)

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)

Doyle, Malachy. *Malachy Doyle's Tales from Old Ireland*. Barefoot Books, 2000. The authentic lilt of the Irish language rings out clearly in 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)

Ellis, Elizabeth. *Every Day a Holiday: A Storyteller's Memoir*. Parkhurst Brothers Publishers, 2014. Celebrated storyteller Elizabeth Ellis's memoir doesn't just read beautifully; her amusing and poignant stories can be *heard* as they leap off the page in her gentle but powerful voice. The frame of eleven holidays allows Ellis to reminisce about family and telling moments in her life as when she advised desperate Valentine's Day customers on how to charm their loved ones when all the red roses had been sold, or when she tried unsuccessfully to take her travel-averse mother to the Grand Ole Opry. Ellis enchants us with her heart, her insights, and her humor, even as she invites us to live more aware that every day "is" a holiday. (2015)

Fleischman, Paul. *Bull Run*. Laura Geringer/Harcourt, 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)

Ford, Lyn. *Affrilachian Tales: Folktales from the African-American Appalachian Tradition*. Parkhurst Brothers, Inc., 2012. One pleasure of storytelling's ever widening influence brings regional, oral folklore to the forefront – a rare delight in our culture with its isolating digital or blockbuster entertainments. This collection of homespun tales, recollected from Ford's diverse and lively family over four generations, presents folktale adaptations and original stories, which Ford calls "Home Fried Tales". Her voice is sassy and classy in her story notes, as well as in the tales grouped under four headings: Folktales from the Briar Patch; Critters; Folks; Spooks and Haints. With a touch of slang and loads of humor, here is a reinvigorating array of spicy, sweet and toothsome tales. (2013)

Ford, Lyn. *Beyond the Briar Patch: Affrilachian Folktales, Food and Folklore*. Parkhurst Brothers Publishers, 2014. Once again under the headings of Critters, Folks, Spookers and Haints, Lyn Ford's unique twists and "berry-sweet" tales transport us as she "breathes memories". She also passionately positions "the pedigree of these tales" as expressions of the sly sagacity and humor central to survival during the African Diaspora. She spins tales of tricksters, animals and families to make us stay awhile - sitting within a gathering, as the moon rises. (2015)

Forest, Heather. *Ancient and Epic Tales from Around the World*. August House, 2016. From Sumria to Ireland to the Soninke people of West Africa, this multicultural collection offers access points into ancient stories of heroes, gods, monsters and magic. Forest's sensitivity to the oral/aural appeal of language ensures each story is ideal for telling and listening; her selections also remind us how profoundly and wisely the Ancients grasped the human condition. Detailed cultural and source notes further contribute to this notable and fascinating collection. (2017)

Fujita, Hiroko and Fran Stallings. *The Price of Three Stories*. Parkhurst Brothers Publishers, 2015. The dynamic duo is at it again with a collection of fifty-three outstanding Japanese folktales that have "rarely or never appeared in English before." Drawn from Fujita-san's memories, this compact and accessible volume will delight families, individual readers, and storytellers alike. Families and friendships, gods and tricksters all make appearances in short, sparkling texts. A glossary, pronunciation guide, and bibliography round out the work. (2017)

Gaiman, Neil. *Norse Mythology*. W. W. Norton, 2017. All-powerful Odin, mighty Thor, trickster Loki: just when you thought you knew all about them, master storyteller Neil Gaiman gives these classic myths a dazzling new take. More novelistic in tone and shape than Crossley-Holland's work on the same topic, *Norse Mythology* nevertheless stays true to the source material. Gaiman's tone, at times witty and at others quite poetic, gives each great, northern tale some room to "breathe" and grow for modern listeners. (2019)

Gates, Henry Louis Jr. and Maria Tatar, eds. *Annotated African-American Folklore.* Liveright Publishing/W.W. Norton, 2018.

Two riveting essays by the authors introduce this 652-page collection. Included are variants of *Tar Baby* and other African tales that survived the Middle Passage, along with 150 African-American stories about flying, magical instruments, witches, ghosts, talking skulls, ballads, and preacher tales. An essay details how Joel Chandler Harris and Walt Disney “hijacked” and re-wrote Brer Rabbit stories to make them more palatable to younger white audiences. Negro folklore collected by Negroes, like Zora Neale Hurston, is featured in Hampton Institute’s *Southern Workman* and *Journal of American Folklore*. Notes on the collectors follow each tale. A 25-page bibliography concludes this substantial, significant, and scholarly collection of tellable tales! (2019)

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)

Goldman, Judy. *Whiskers, Tails & Wings: Animal Folktales from Mexico.* Charlesbridge, 2013. Animal tales, enhanced by humor, from five of Mexico’s indigenous people include a creation story, a trickster tale, and three pour quoi tales. Following each story Goldman explores the indigenous group from which it comes – the people, geography, economy, clothing, and education. Helpful glossary and pronunciation guide for Spanish *and* native words used in each story plus an extensive bibliography of print *and* digital sources. A model of what story collections should be - tellable tales enhanced by background information, pronunciation guides, and sources. (2015)

Hamilton, Mary. *Kentucky Folktales: Revealing Stories, Truths, and Outright Lies.* University Press of Kentucky, 2012. Mary Hamilton layers on the treasures in this book. Central is a distinguished regional collection of twenty-five tales from Kentucky and beyond. Her commentary on the process of making each story her own deepens our understanding of each tale. Added to this are meaningful accounts of the story’s ongoing development, extensive source notes, enlightening acknowledgements and a bibliography at the book’s close. A unique offering in which one teller’s experience serves as an illuminating resource for others. (2013)

Hamilton, Virginia. *When Birds Could Talk and Bats Could Sing.* Blue Sky Press, 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 folks, who fussed and squabbled just like human folk in the days when the animals could talk. (1998)

Hayes, Joe. *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 the 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)

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 and Steve Zeitlin. *While Standing on One Foot: Puzzle Stories and Wisdom Tales from the Jewish Tradition*. Holt, 1992. These 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. These 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)

Jenkins, Emily. *Brave Red, Smart Frog: A New Book of Old Tales*. Candlewick Press, 2017. Emily Jenkins gives us seven classic tales, many of which take place in or near a frozen forest. Perhaps you know of it. These versions of *Snow White*, *Red Riding Hood*, and others, resonate with insight and delight with surprises as Jenkins cleverly weaves strands from one story into another. Each tale is a gem to be told out loud. (2019)

Johnson-Davies, Denys. *Goha the Wise Fool*. Philomel, 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 in this vast and valuable resource. This two volume set - separated into Eastern or Western regions of USA and 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)

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)

Laird, Elizabeth. *Pea Boy and Other Stories from Iran*. Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2009. 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 tell of animals exhibiting 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)

Levine, Ellen. *Freedom's Children: Young Civil Rights Activists Tell Their Own Stories.* Putnam, 1993. 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)

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, 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)

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)

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 wisdom 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)

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)

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, this is 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)

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)

Pullman, Philip. *Fairy Tales from the Brothers Grimm: a New English Translation.* Viking Adult, 2012. Many of us are lucky enough to have been raised with the fairy tales of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. Now on their 200th anniversary the mighty Philip Pullman treats us to a retelling of 50 favorites. Source notes with variations that reshaped stories over the years follow each tale. Includes both well-known classics and rare treasures of the "Grimm" realities that permeate the Western European mythos. (2013)

Reneaux, J. J. *Cajun Folktales.* August House, 1992. Having grown up "Cajun for true", Reneaux fills this spicy mix 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 pourquoi 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, told in Ross's clear and convincing voice. The stories have an infectious liveliness that makes their insights easy to absorb. Beginning and experienced storytellers will find sure-fire material here. (1996)

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 authors' 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)

Suresha, Ron J. *The Uncommon Sense of the Immortal Mullah Nasruddin.* Lethe Press, 2011. Wise fools are favorites of storytellers and story listeners alike...and no wonder! They allow us to laugh and learn at the same time. Ron J. Suresha collected several hundred stories of the Persian folk hero Nasruddin, from short jokes and anecdotes to longer, fully-fledged tales. He presents

them gathered traditionally in groups of seven—"seven parts with seven sections each containing seven stories". Well-researched and well-written, this collection is a delight for listeners and tellers alike. (2013)

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)

Tatar, Maria, Editor. *Beauty and the Beast: Classic Tales about Animal Brides and Grooms from Around the World*. Penguin Classics, 2017. Maria Tatar's splendid—and tantalizing--- introduction beckons us to open forbidden doors where shocking, improbable, romantic, and erotic tales of shifting relationships between humans and animals hide. From the world over, brides and grooms - morphed into snakes, pigs, cranes, frogs, bulls - bid us to see and know ourselves as both beast and human. This ancient tale of transformation, compassion, and insight grows sticky with new meanings as it rolls through diverse cultures, told by storytellers asking new questions, seeking new answers to the vexing and primal issues of spousal partnership. Tatar writes with verve and scholarly depth to contextualize each tale, unlocking doors into secret worlds of culture, time, and place. Story sources, indexes, and tale types reward all who explore this book's abundant riches. (2019)

Tran, Phuoc Thi Minh. *Vietnamese Children's Favorite Stories*. Illustrated by Nguyen Thi Hop and Nguyen Dong. Tuttle, 2015. Fifteen favorite stories from Tran's childhood reveal traditions, beliefs, and values of the Vietnamese people. Discover why a rabbit appears on the face of the moon, how a goldfish and a pair of red slippers rescue a girl from a life of drudgery, and what amazing feats a magical sword, ax, and flute achieve. Told with humor in simple but visual language, these folktales are ideal for both beginning and experienced storytellers. (2017)

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 a distinct personality that 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 that is more than the sum of its parts. (1996)

Von Schönwerth, Franz Xaver. *The Turnip Princess and Other Newly Discovered Fairy Tales*. Compiled and edited by Erika Eichenseer, translated by Maria Tatar with illustrations by Engelbert Süß. Penguin Classics, 2015. Originally published in Bavaria in the 1850's and rediscovered in a public archive in 2009, this collection traveled its own legendary journey. With echoes of better known Grimm tales, the peasant origins lend these seventy-two tales a grittier, raw quality with surprisingly emancipated female characters. Tatar's translation offers the English-speaking world an intriguing and zesty addition to the canon of traditional European fairy tales! (2017)

Walker, Barbara. *The Art of the Turkish Tale: Volume Two*. Texas Tech University Press, 1993. Though 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)

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)

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 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, Wolkstein makes stunning versions 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)

Yee, Paul. *Chinese Fairy Tale Feasts: A Literary Cookbook*. Illustrated by Shaoli Wang with recipes by Judy Chan. Crocodile Books, 2015. Tasty recipes and Chinese proverbs enrich this heady "stew" of Chinese fairy tales. For each story, Yee illuminates glimpses of Chinese culture and history highlighting salient features from foods to spiritual traditions. While themes of the wise and generous child, greedy adults, foolish scholars, mischievous monkeys, and ungrateful characters resonate with global folktale themes, unexpected plot twists make this collection a tantalizing and nourishing feast for eager listeners, as well as scholars of storytelling. (2017)

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. *Once There Was a Story*. Illustrated by Jane Dyer. Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2017. Some stories are more well-known than others, in Jane Yolen's thirty tales from around the world; she also pens two original tales. Full of clever humor, common sense, trickery, and unforgettable characters, these stories will be enjoyed by preschoolers - and their favorite adults - again and again. (2019)

Zalka, Csenge. *Dancing on Blades: Rare and Exquisite Folktales from the Carpathian Mountains*. Parkhurst Brothers, 2018. One hundred years ago in her Hungarian village, Anna Palyuk told stories she learned from her grandmother and parents; she also created her own stories. In this collection, Hungarian storyteller Csenge Zalka presents thirty of Palyuk's stories, including versions of old tales, stories of kindness, and Palyuk's "most magical tales." Zalka's commentary follows each tale, including minor alterations to make them more understandable for 21st century audiences. Although any form of recording requires written consent, it is notable - and refreshing - that Zalka grants permission to tell these stories. (2019)

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, 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)

Zipes, Jack, editor. *The Golden Age of Fairy Tales: From the Brothers Grimm to Andrew Lang*. Hackett Publishing, 2013.

In a treasure trove for serious storytellers, noted scholar Jack Zipes presents variants of eighteen European tale-types popular during the Nineteenth Century's "Golden Age of Fairy Tales". Are you searching for other versions of Hansel and Gretel? Do you want to further inform your telling of Rumpelstiltskin? Are you intrigued by the tale of Bluebeard? Look no further than this thoroughly researched, yet enlightening volume. (2015)