Folklore

A Tale of Two Rice Birds: A Folktale from Thailand by Clare Hodgson Meeker

Two rice birds ensconce themselves in a teakwood tree, have children and would live happily ever after were it not for a tragic accident and an equally tragic misunderstanding. All is not lost, however, for the love that bound the parent birds follows them into future incarnations, when the female becomes a stubborn princess and the male, a canny peasant.

An Illustrated Treasury of Scottish Folk and Fairy Tales by Theresa Breslin

Slithering steeworms, mischievous brownies, fierce kelpies and magical selkies are the creatures of Scottish folklore.

Animal Dreaming: An Aboriginal Dreamtime Story by Paul Morin

It is the belief of the Australian Aboriginal people that long ago the earth was soft and had no form. Deserts, mountains, lakes, and prairies were created by the animals. Let young Mirri take your hand, and journey along with him as he learns about his heritage, his people’s past, and his place in the future, while learning the stories of Dreamtime.

Bee and the Dream: A Japanese Tale by Jan Freeman Long

When Shin sees a bee fly from the nose of his friend, Tasuke, he decides to buy the dream from his friend and sets out on a grand adventure.

Dear Mili: An Old Tale by Wilhelm Grimm

Dear Mili tells of a mother who sends her daughter into the forest to save her from a terrible war. The child comes upon the hut of an old man, who gives her shelter, and she repays his kindness by serving him faithfully for what she thinks are three days. Actually, thirty years have passed, but Mili has remained safe, and with the old man’s blessing there is still time for a tender reunion with her mother.

East of the Sun & West of the Moon by László Gál

Ingrid, the beautiful daughter of a poor woodcutter, must show courage and cunning - and a little magic - to rescue the prince she loves from the mysterious castle that lies east of the sun and west of the moon.

Eric Carle’s Treasury of Classic Stories for Children by Eric Carle

Here is a rich and varied collection of the great stories that have enchanted children for centuries. Princesses and peasants, brave heroines and heroes, elves, wizards, fairies and talking animals throng its colorful pages.

Frog Girl by Paul Owen Lewis

When the frogs suddenly vanish from the lake behind her village, a young Native American girl is led to the frog village underneath the lake and learns what she must do to save both the frogs and her own people.

Hansel & Gretel by Neil Gaiman

Hansel and Gretel: Two abandoned children come upon a gingerbread cottage inhabited by a cruel witch who wants to eat them.

Horses of Myth by Gerald and Loretta Hausman

The five stories in this handsome book pay homage to the noble animal that has carried humans through history. In lively tales that vary in tone to reflect different cultures, the Hausmans introduce the brave Arabian, the hardy American mustang, a magic humpbacked horse from Russia, a ghost chasing horse from Tahiti, and the heroic Karabair of ancient Armenia.

King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table by Antonia Fraser

Heroes, adventure, magic, and romance. All the familiar characters and tales are here: the sword in the stone; Sir Lancelot’s love for Queen Guinevere; Sir Galahad’s quest for the Holy Grail; and Merlin the wizard, Arthur’s old friend. And the forces of evil are at work too, as the wicked Morgan Le Fay plots to bring about Arthur’s downfall.
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Merry Adventures of Robin Hood by Howard Pyle

Deep in Sherwood Forest, the legendary Robin Hood—the brave, good-humoured outlaw the whole world loves—proves himself the best in England with his bow. Here are all the exciting tales of how Little John, Will Scarlet, Allan a Dale, and Friar Tuck joined his merry band of men; Robin Hood’s breathtaking escapes from his archenemy, the Sheriff of Nottingham; and one hilarious escapade after another filled with quick action, scheming villains, and great surprises.

Music for the Tsar of the Sea: A Russian Wonder Tale by Celia Barker Lottridge

This charming retelling of the Russian folktale about how the city of Novgorod got its river is also the tale of Sadko the minstrel.

Myths and Legends of Aotearoa by Annie Rae Ake Ake

For the first time, fifteen ancient Maori stories are retold, in the aim to strengthen the awareness of the indigenous wisdom and spirit of New Zealand.

Nungadin and Willijen by Percy Trezise and Mary Haginikitas

Nungadin and his sister Willijen are left alone in the bush when their parents go and collect honey. Willijen disappears when Nungadin chases after a blue crane and he is so heartbroken that he turns into a bird and spends his days flying restlessly from tree to tree, calling his sister’s name.

Ogopogo, the Misunderstood Lake Monster: The Broken Bridge Adventure by Don Levers

Follow the adventures of the misunderstood lake monster in this modern day tale of dramatic rescue and heroism.

One Thousand and One Arabian Nights by Geraldine McCaughrean

King Shahryar kills a new wife every night, because he is afraid she will stop loving him. But his new bride Shahrazad has a clever plan to save herself. Her nightly stories—of Sinbad the Sailor, Ali Baba, and many other heroes and villains—are so engrossing that King Shahryar has to postpone her execution again and again.

Princess Florecita and the Iron Shoes: A Spanish Fairy Tale by John Warren Stewig

In an effort to save her beloved sleeping prince, the determined Princess Florecita travels far, far away in a pair of iron shoes that must be worn through in order for the spell to be broken.

Rapunzel retold by Paul O. Zelinsky

A folktale in which a beautiful girl with long golden hair is kept imprisoned in a lonely tower by a sorceress.

Song of the Sea: Myths, Tales, and Folklore by Ann Spencer

Song of the Sea collects the myths, legends, and tunes of sailors the world over. From selkies and salty dogs, chanties and charts, to mermaids and monsters and pirates, there’s a story for everyone.

Spirit of the Forest: Tree Tales from Around the World by Helen East & Eric Maddern

Trees are symbols of life itself. We cut them down at our peril. Here is a leafy anthology of 12 traditional tales from all over the Earth’s surface, from Native North America to New Guinea and from Wales to Nepal. They include tales of high magic, bravery and guile, death and rebirth, each woven around a tree.

Tales From the Old World by Kevin Crossley-Holland

Ten tales that sweep ancient Europe, from Iceland to England and from Greece to Denmark, giving a taste of the myth and folk tale of them all. This book is bursting with fantastic retellings of old favorites such as “The Pied Piper of Hamelin” and “Arthur the King.” It is alive with grippingly told, unfamiliar stories such as “Godfather Death” and “The Lady of Stavoren.” There’s a tale in here to thrill, delight, or chill every reader.