Traditional Literature

Traditional literature tell stories that were originally shared through oral tradition. The stories have been spread by word mouth and ultimately recorded as print materials.

Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library
A Selective Annotated Selective Bibliography

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lexile Score</th>
<th>Title Information</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EASY</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A retelling of the well-known tale in which a little black boy finally outwits the succession of tigers that want to eat him.</td>
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<td>An easy retelling of the tale of twelve princesses who dance secretly all night long and how their secret is eventually discovered.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Relates episodes from the life of Johnny Appleseed, a peaceful man who roamed the West for fifty years planting and tending to the trees that bore his favorite fruit, the apple.</td>
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An urban retelling of the classic Goldilocks and the Three Bears story, told from the baby bear's perspective.


While a princess spoils her eight cats, a mouse and his friend, a brown bat, live on scraps in the castle cellar, but Mouse decides to place bells on the cats’ necks so that he and Brown Bat might live comfortably, as well. Includes the Aesop fable on which the story is based.


A little girl meets a hungry wolf in the forest on her way to visit her grandmother.


Retells the story of Goldilocks and the three bears in rhyming text interspersed with Spanish words, which are defined in a glossary.


Two hungry travelers use a stone as a soup starter and demonstrate the benefits of sharing. Includes a recipe for soup.


Little Wolf is tired of eating lamburgers and sloppy does, but when he tricks his parents into thinking there is a boy in the woods, they could all miss a chance for a real feast.


Recasts in an African setting the familiar fairy tale in which a beautiful girl with extraordinarily long hair is imprisoned in a lonely tower by a witch.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AD290L</td>
<td>McDermott, Gerald</td>
<td><em>Anansi the Spider; A Tale from the Ashanti</em></td>
<td>New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1972.</td>
<td>In trying to determine which of his six sons to reward for saving his life, Anansi the Spider is responsible for placing the moon in the sky.</td>
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<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>McKay, Sindy</td>
<td><em>The Frog Prince: From the Stories by the Brothers Grimm</em></td>
<td>Redwood City, CA: Treasure Bay, 1997.</td>
<td>As payment for retrieving the princess's ball, the frog exacts a promise which the princess is reluctant to fulfill.</td>
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<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Pinkney, Jerry</td>
<td><em>The Lion and the Mouse</em></td>
<td>New York: Little, Brown and Co. for Young Readers, 2009.</td>
<td>In this wordless retelling of an Aesop fable set in the African Serengeti, an adventuresome mouse proves that even a small creature is capable of great deeds when she rescues the King of the Jungle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD9140L</td>
<td>Sharpe, Leah</td>
<td><em>The Goat-Faced Girl</em></td>
<td>Boston: David R. Godine, 2009.</td>
<td>When Isabella, a beautiful but lazy young woman, agrees to marry an equally lazy prince, the sorceress who raised her gives her the head of a goat in hopes that she will learn to do things for herself.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Retelling of the story about a boy captured by the snow queen and taken to her castle in the north and his friend's efforts to save him.


Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife.


Retells the fable about an industrious ant that busily prepares for the approaching winter while a grasshopper makes no plans for the cold weather to come.


Retells eight Greek myths in a comic strip format, including "Pandora's Box," "The Twelve Tasks of Heracles," and "Theseus and the Minotaur."


A strange little man helps the miller's daughter spin straw into gold for the king on the condition that she will give him her first-born child.

**FICTION**


A retelling of the quests and adventures of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.


The author retells a story heard as a child, one of many invented to explain the landscape on willow pattern China, popular for the last 200 years.
this, two young Chinese lovers are punished by one's cruel mandarin father.


Retells, in graphic novel format, Homer's epic tale of Odysseus, the ancient Greek hero who encounters witches and other obstacles on his journey home after fighting in the Trojan War.

**NONFICTION**


Reveals the meaning of the mosquito's buzz.


Baba, Nicki's grandmother, knits pure white mittens for him, even though she is afraid that he will lose them in the snow. Sure enough, the first time Nicki is out, he drops one and some animals promptly move into its snug wool interior. First comes a mole, then a rabbit, a hedgehog, an owl, a badger, a fox, a bear and, finally, a mouse. Nicki finds his mitten, and takes it home, but Baba is left to wonder about how it became so enormously stretched out.


When a crew of Chinese fishermen forget to bring cooking utensils with them, they find creative ways to make do with what they have and what they can find.


Clever collage illustrations bring to life this tale of four animals that are down on their luck. Hoping to make a better life as musicians in the town of Bremen, the quartet instead outwits a band of thieves and retires to the country for a happily ever after
Ananse the spider thinks he will marry the daughter of the village chief, but instead he is outsmarted by Lizard.

A retelling of the classic story of Chicken Little, who has an acorn fall on his head and runs in a panic to his friends Henny Penny, Lucky Ducky, and Loosey Goosey, to tell them the sky is falling.

In this Algonquin Indian version of the Cinderella story, the Rough-Face Girl and her two beautiful but heartless sisters compete for the affections of the Invisible Being.

A retelling of the Aesop fable of the crow who was able to obtain a drink of water by dropping pebbles one by one into the source of the water.

Retells the biblical story of the great flood and how Noah and his family faithfully responded to God's call to save life on earth.

The legendary woodsman Paul Bunyan was the biggest man who ever lived. He had wagon wheels for shirt buttons, and his axe took an entire town a whole month to build! One day, Paul finds a big blue ox frozen in the snow. He nurses the behemoth back to health, and names his new companion Babe. The two travel the land, and clear the way for settlers who will soon follow.

Retells, in easy text, of the Sheriff of Nottingham's plot to hold an archery contest in order to capture the outlaw Robin Hood, but Robin and his band of merry men arrive in disguise with a plan of their own.

Tortoise proves he is a formidable opponent in this comic adaptation of a classic tale.


A saintly rabbi miraculously brings to life a clay giant who helps him watch over the Jews of sixteenth-century Prague.


When they are left in the woods by their parents, two children find their way home despite an encounter with a wicked witch.


A clever spider tricks Elephant and some other animals into thinking the melon in which he is hiding can talk.


A retelling of Aesop's well-known fable in which a country mouse visits a town mouse and they find they prefer very different ways of life.


An illustrated version of the well-known poem about a wily spider who preys on the vanity and innocence of a little fly.

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