



Traditional Literature

Traditional literature tells 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 Bibliography

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

Grade Level	Title Information	Call Number
EASY		
PreK - 4	Bannerman, Helen. <i>The Story of Little Black Sambo</i> . Brooklyn, NY: Handprint Books, 2003. A retelling of the well-known tale in which a little black boy finally outwits the succession of tigers that want to eat him.	E B2269ST
K - 3	Barrager, Brigitte. <i>Twelve Dancing Princesses</i> . San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2011. An easy retelling of the tale of twelve princesses who dance secretly all night long and how their secret is eventually discovered.	E B2715T
K - 3	Blair, Eric. <i>Johnny Appleseed: A Retelling of the Classic Tall Tale</i> . Minneapolis, MN: Picture Window Books, 2005. 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.	E B575J

PreK - 2	Browne, Anthony. <i>Me and You</i> . New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2010.	E B816ME
	An urban retelling of the classic Goldilocks and the Three Bears story told from the baby bear's perspective.	
PreK - 1	von Buhler, Cynthia. <i>But Who Will Bell the Cats?</i> Boston: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2009.	E B867B
	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.	
K - 3	Davidson, Susanna. <i>Little Red Riding Hood</i> . London, UK: Usborne, 2006.	E D284LI
	A little girl meets a hungry wolf in the forest on her way to visit her grandmother.	
N/A	Elya, Susan Middleton. <i>Rubia and the Three Osos</i> . New York: Disney/Hyperion Books, 2010.	E EL94R
	Retells the story of Goldilocks and the three bears in rhyming text interspersed with Spanish words, which are defined in a glossary.	
1 - 2	Forest, Heather. <i>Stone Soup</i> . Little Rock, AR: August House LittleFolk, 2000.	E F7617S
	Two hungry travelers use a stone as a soup starter and demonstrate the benefits of sharing. Includes a recipe for soup.	
N/A	Hartman, Bob. <i>The Wolf Who Cried Boy</i> . New York: Putnam's Sons, 2002.	E H254W
	Little Wolf is tired of eating hamburgers 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.	
K - 3	Isadora, Rachel. <i>Rapunzel</i> . New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008.	E IS17R
	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.	
K - 3	Jones, Christianne C. <i>John Henry</i> . Minneapolis, MN: Picture Window Books, 2005.	E J7126JOH
	Retells some of the legends of John Henry, an African-American hero who	

raced against a steam drill to lay railroad tracks on a mountain.

- K - 3 McDermott, Gerald. *Anansi the Spider; A Tale from the Ashanti*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1972. E
M143A
- 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.
- 1 - 2 McKay, Sindy. *The Frog Prince: From the Stories by the Brothers Grimm*. Redwood City, CA: Treasure Bay, 1997. E
M1928F
- As payment for retrieving the princess's ball, the frog exacts a promise which the princess is reluctant to fulfill.
- K - 3 Nolan, Dennis. *Androcles and the Lion*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1997. E
N711A
- A retelling of the fable originally written by Apion, an Egyptian living in Rome around 40 A.D., in which Androcles, a runaway slave, befriends a wounded lion.
- K - 3 O'Hearn, Michael. *How Spirit Dog Made the Milky Way: A Retelling of a Cherokee Legend*. Minneapolis, MN: Picture Window Books, 2009. E
OH2H
- A Cherokee couple spends their days fishing and making cornmeal. When a giant dog steals their cornmeal, the neighbors all gather to help. Find out how this Cherokee legend explains the creation of the Milky Way.
- PreK - 2 O'Neill, Richard. *Yokki and the Parno Gry*. Auburn, ME: Child's Play Ltd, 2016. E
ON29Y
- When a Traveler family experiences a run of bad luck, an imaginative boy called Yokki lifts their spirits with tales of a magical white horse. A traditional Traveler-family folk tale which inspires hope and celebrates creativity. Told by a Romani storyteller together with a picture book author to positively reflect Traveling cultures.
- PreK - 3 Pinkney, Jerry. *The Lion and the Mouse*. New York: Little, Brown and Co. for Young Readers, 2009. E
P65615LIO
- 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.
- 2 - 4 Sharpe, Leah. *The Goat-Faced Girl*. Boston: David R. Godine, 2009. E
SH243G
- 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.

- K - 3 Sims, Lesley. *The Snow Queen*. London, UK: Usborne, 2005. E
SI588S
- 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.
- PreK - 3 Steptoe, John. *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1987. E
ST454M
- Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife.
- 1 - 2 White, Mark. *The Ant and the Grasshopper: A Retelling of Aesop's Fable*. Minneapolis, MN: Picture Window Books, 2004. E
W5847A
- 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.
- N/A Williams, Marcia. *Greek Myths Retold and Illustrated*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2011. E
W6741G
- Retells eight Greek myths in a comic strip format, including "Pandora's Box," "The Twelve Tasks of Heracles," and "Theseus and the Minotaur."
- K - 4 Zelinsky, Paul O. *Rumpelstiltskin*. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1986. E
Z37R
- 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

- 3 - 4 Braun, Eric. *Little Red Riding Hood: An Interactive Fairy Tale Adventure*. North Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 2016. F
B7383L
- In this You Choose adventure Little Red Riding Hood can be a girl in an urban park, a boy in the middle of a war, or the more traditional girl in the forest--the choice is up to the reader.
- 4 - 8 Brooks, Felicity. *Tales of King Arthur*. Tulsa, OK: EDC, 2006. F
B7914T
- A retelling of the quests and adventures of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

2 - 4 Drummond, Allan. *The Willow Pattern Story*. New York: North-South Books, 1992. F D843W

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. In this, two young Chinese lovers are punished by one's cruel mandarin father.

7 - 12 Hinds, Gareth. *The Odyssey: A Graphic Novel*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2010. F H588O

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

1 - 4 Fleischman, Paul. *First Light, First Life: A Worldwide Creation Story*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2016. 202.4 F6285F

The author draws from a variety of folk traditions to put together the story of creation, including elements from many cultures.

K - 4 Pinkney, Jerry. *Noah's Ark*. New York: SeaStar Books, 2002. 222.1109505 P656N

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.

K - 2 Robertson, Joanne. *The Water Walker*. Toronto, ON: Second Story Press, 2017. 304.2 R5475W

This is the story of a determined Ojibwe Grandmother (Nokomis) Josephine Mandamin and her great love for Nibi (Water). Nokomis walks to raise awareness of our need to protect Nibi for future generations, and for all life on the planet. She, along with other women, men, and youth, have walked around all of the Great Lakes from the four salt waters - or oceans - all the way to Lake Superior. The water walks are full of challenges, and by her example Josephine inspires and challenges us all to take up our responsibility to protect our water and our planet for all generations.

2 - 3 Aardema, Verna. *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears: A West African Tale*. New York: Dial Press, 1975. 398.2 AA72W

Reveals the meaning of the mosquito's buzz.

PreK - 2	Brett, Jan. <i>The Mitten: An Old Ukrainian Folktale</i> . New York: Putnam, 1989.	398.2 B7564M
	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.	
K - 3	Compestone, Ying Chang. <i>The Real Story of Stone Soup</i> . New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2007.	398.2 C73844R
	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.	
N/A	Cowley, Joy. <i>The Bremen Town Musicians</i> . Strathfield, New South Wales: Big & Small, 2016.	398.2 C83922B
	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.	
K - 2	Cummings, Pat. <i>Ananse and the Lizard: A West African Tale</i> . New York: Henry Holt, 2002.	398.2 C9126A
	Ananse the spider thinks he will marry the daughter of the village chief, but instead he is outsmarted by Lizard.	
PreK - 2	Emberley, Rebecca. <i>Chicken Little</i> . New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2009.	398.2 EM13C
	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.	
1 - 2	Martin, Rafe. <i>The Rough-Face Girl</i> . New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1992.	398.2 M365R
	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.	
PreK - K	Mora, Pat. <i>Agua, Agua, Agua: An Aesop's Fable</i> . Glenview, IL: Good Year Books, 1994.	398.2 M79A
	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.

- 3 - 4 Powell, Martin. *The Tall Tales of Paul Bunyan*. Minneapolis, MN: Stone Arch Books, 2010. 398.2 P8714T
- 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.
- K - 2 San Souci, Robert. *Robin Hood and the Golden Arrow*. New York: Orchard Books, 2010. 398.2 SA589R
- 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.
- K - 3 Stevens, Janet. *The Tortoise and the Hare: An Aesop Fable*. New York: Holiday House, 1984. 398.2 ST475TO
- Tortoise proves he is a formidable opponent in this comic adaptation of a classic tale.
- PreK - 2 Soundar, Chitra. *Pattan's Pumpkin: A Traditional Flood Story from Southern India*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2017. 398.20954 C448P
- Pattan has an amazing pumpkin. It grows bigger than the goats, bigger than the elephants... so BIG that it is as TALL as the mountains. Then one day, the storm clouds burst, and the waters rise. Pattan, his family, and all the animals are in danger from the momentous flood. Can Pattan and his giant pumpkin save the day? Based on a traditional tale told by the Irula people of southern India.
- 3 - 4 Wisniewski, David. *Golem*. New York: Clarion Books, 1996. 398.21 W762G
- A saintly rabbi miraculously brings to life a clay giant who helps him watch over the Jews of sixteenth-century Prague.
- N/A Zwerger, Lisbeth. *Hansel & Gretel*. New York: Minedition, 2008. 398.21 Z93H
- When they are left in the woods by their parents, two children find their way home despite an encounter with a wicked witch.

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| 1 - 2 | Kimmel, Eric A. <i>Anansi and the Talking Melon</i> . New York: Holiday House, 1994. | 398.24
K571AT |
| | A clever spider tricks Elephant and some other animals into thinking the melon in which he is hiding can talk. | |
| PreK - 1 | Ward, Helen. <i>The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse: An Aesop Fable</i> . Somerville, MA: Templar Books/Candlewick, 2012. | 398.24
W212TO |
| | 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. | |
| 1 - 6 | Howitt, Mary. <i>The Spider and the Fly</i> . New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002. | 821.8
H842S |
| | 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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