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Folk/Fairy Tale Database

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Name of Story	Country of Origin	Theme	Author/Editor	Source	Summary	My Reaction	Age	Length in Minutes
A Blind Man Catches a Bird	Zimbabwe (Ndebele)	Only good can come from righting a wrong.	Margaret Read Macdonald	<i>Peace Tales: World Folktales to Talk About</i>	A young man takes his blind friend bird hunting, but switches their catches out of jealousy. The blind man forgives him when he gives back the more desired bird.	A wonderful tale about how jealousy can affect a friendship and what is needed to mend the relationship.	9+	5
The Cat and the Parrot	India	Greediness can backfire.	Judy Sierra	<i>The Flannel Board Storytelling Book</i>	A cat greedily eats everything it encounters. Two land crabs that is devours use their claws to cut open its stomach and everyone/thing escapes.	A silly story to demonstrate greediness and how it does not pay off.	5+	4
The Creature of the Night	Brazil	Things are not the way they appear.	Margaret Read Macdonald	<i>Five Minute Tales: More Stories to Read and Tell when Time is Short</i>	A young woman tries to silence her dog and ultimately ends up killing it because she thinks that it is keeping a man away from her, but it is really protecting her from a creature of the night.	There are variations of this tale. It is a good suspenseful story, but may be frightening for younger children.	7+	5
The Dancing Fiddle	Scotland	Promises are meant to be kept.	Dan Keding	<i>More Ready-to-Tell Tales from Around the World</i>	A young woman tries to sell her fiddle to a pawnbroker, but he ends up nearly being killed by a ghost. The next day he returns the fiddle to the young woman and finds out that her deceased husband promised to kill anyone that she sold the fiddle to.	A creepy story that is good for Halloween, ghost, or musical instrument themed programming.	10+	5

Name of Story	Country of Origin	Theme	Author/Editor	Source	Summary	My Reaction	Age	Length in Minutes
The Fir Tree	Denmark	Enjoy life because it ends sooner than later.	Hans Christian Anderson	<i>Fairy Tales</i>	A young fir tree yearns to be a big tree just like the others in the forest. Once it does, it longs to become a Christmas tree unaware that the glory and splendor does not last.	A cautionary tale about living in the present and enjoying youth and life while you can.	8+	13
The Girl with the Rose-Red Slippers	Egypt	Beautiful slave girl ends up becoming queen.	Roger Lancelyn Green	<i>Tales of Ancient Egypt</i>	A beautiful woman is being sold as a slave. She is lavished by the wealthy merchant that purchases her. An eagle swoops down and steals one of her slippers while she is bathing. The eagle drops the slipper on the pharaoh's lap and the pharaoh decides he must find the woman who the shoe belongs to.	A Cinderella story of Egypt, this tale sounded familiar upon reading it. I like that the merchant let's Rhodopis go without any trouble.	8+	7

Name of Story	Country of Origin	Theme	Author/Editor	Source	Summary	My Reaction	Age	Length in Minutes
The Golden Lotus	Egypt	The Pharaoh wishes to be entertained because he has grown bored.	Roger Lancelyn Green	<i>Tales of Ancient Egypt</i>	A pharaoh sent for his chief magician since he cannot find anything to entertain him. A cruise on the Nile in an ornate boat with the fairest maidens as the rowers is arranged for the pharaoh. One of the rowers loses a golden lotus hair comb in the river and refuses to continue rowing. The magician is summoned to part the river so that the comb can be retrieved.	This is an interesting tale from Egypt. I like that the maiden that has lost her hair accessory refuses to continue even after the pharaoh has promised her another.	8+	8
Hold Tight and Stick Tight	Japan	You get what you deserve.	Margaret Read Macdonald	<i>Earth Care: World Folktales to Talk About</i>	A tale of the Kind Old Man and Mean Old Man. The wanton destruction of trees reaps its reward, while caring for a broken tree brings good fortune.	A wonderful tale about the spirit in which a character performs a good deed. The universe has a way of giving everyone their just desserts.	9+	4
Juan and the Ghost	United States (New Mexico)	Fortunes can change at any time for the fearless.	Judy Sierra	<i>Multicultural Folktales for the Feltboard and Readers' Theater</i>	A fearless young man spends the night at a haunted house. He goes from being the joke of the town to a rich and respected man when he helps a ghost.	A slightly creepy tale that teaches the importance of taking a chance and taking the time to listen. It would be a good story for programming around Halloween.	5+	3

Name of Story	Country of Origin	Theme	Author/Editor	Source	Summary	My Reaction	Age	Length in Minutes
The Kiss of Evil	Iraq	Sometimes riches are not worth what must be sacrificed to achieve them.	Loralee Cooley	<i>More Ready-to-Tell Tales from Around the World</i>	A poor farmer is envious of a well-to-do stranger and follows him into the desert to seek riches. The farmer loses everything including his family, tongue, arms, and legs in exchange for silver and gold.	A cautionary tale about strangers offering something that is too good to be true, it follows the adventures of a current day beggar in a flashback. It also alludes to the dangers of envy.	11+	20
Lazy Jack	England	Instructions must be adapted to fit the situation.	Judy Sierra & Robert Kaminski	<i>Multicultural Folktales: Stories to Tell Young Children</i>	A boy follows his mother's instructions to the letter, but they are of no use since he does not adapt them to fit the situation. At the end of the story, his senseless following of instructions pays off when he makes a rich girl laugh.	There are variations of this tale. I like (and dislike) that the hero is rewarded in the end even though he did not take the time to logically think through his mother's suggestions.	5+	4
The Queen and the Peasant Wife	India	Good fortune follows those that take care of their home regardless of their financial situation.	Margaret Read Macdonald	<i>Five Minute Tales: More Stories to Read and Tell when Time is Short</i>	A rich queen and a poor peasant switch places. The queen turns around the poor peasant's household for the better and the poor peasant leaves the queen's palace in shambles.	Tale that shows money does not affect how well one's household is kept. It also shows that laziness brings about misfortune.	5+	5
The Rabbit and the Tiger	Vietnam	Brains can overcome brute force	Judy Sierra	<i>Multicultural Folktales for the Feltboard and Readers' Theater</i>	A rabbit dupes a tiger three times, and in the process, avoids being eaten	There are variations of this tale. I like the idea of brains ruling over brawn since often the opposite is thought to be true.	5+	3

Name of Story	Country of Origin	Theme	Author/Editor	Source	Summary	My Reaction	Age	Length in Minutes
The Rose Prince	Romania	Hatred is the root of war.	Margaret Read Macdonald	<i>Peace Tales: World Folktales to Talk About</i>	A baby born from a rose bush is adopted by the King and Queen. They raise the Rose Prince as their own and eventually he reaches manhood and pledges to fight alongside the King. In a moment of clarity, he realizes that there is no good reason for war and stops the battle.	This is a great anti-war story to tell. I like the message that we can easily choose peace over righting ancient wrongs.	9+	5
Salting the Pudding	United States (Alabama)	Too many cooks spoil the broth.	Pleasant DeSpain	<i>Sweet Land of Story: Thirty-Six American Tales to Tell</i>	Mother asks all five of her daughters to help with the pudding and none of them have time. But they all end up adding salt to the pudding once they are done with what they were doing when their mother asked.	This is a short, silly story. I like the sense of anticipation for the pudding: just to find out that it is ruined.	7+	5
Snow-White and the Seven Dwarfs	Germany	Envy will is wicked.	Jacob & Wilhem K. Grimm	<i>The Juniper Tree: and Other Tales from Grimm</i>	A wicked stepmother is envious of her stepdaughter's beauty. Her attempts to kill her are thwarted by the seven dwarfs that have befriended her stepdaughter.	A wonderful, classic tale. It will be familiar to most in an audience, but the details may vary depending on the variations they've been exposed to.	10+	20

Name of Story	Country of Origin	Theme	Author/Editor	Source	Summary	My Reaction	Age	Length in Minutes
Stone Soup	Belgium	Sharing with others has its benefits.	Judy Sierra & Robert Kaminski	<i>Multicultural Folktales: Stories to Tell Young Children</i>	A hungry soldier "tricks" the people of a town to contribute to a pot of soup that ends up feeding the whole town.	There are variations of this tale. A good story where trickery ultimately results in something positive. It could help with children's moral development.	5+	3
Three Green Ladies	England (Derbyshire)	Don't take the Earth (environment) for granted.	Margaret Read Macdonald	<i>Earth Care: World Folktales to Talk About</i>	Three sons inherit their father's land. The two do not follow their father's instruction to care for the land and are ultimately killed by it. The third feels a connection with the land and ends up owning it all after his brothers die.	A good tale to demonstrate the importance of the environment. Also, advises against greed and its blinding effects. It could be a good story for Earth Day or anytime of the year.	9+	8
The Three Wishes	Germany	Think before you speak.	Judy Sierra	<i>The Flannel Board Storytelling Book</i>	A man is granted three wishes by an elf that lives in a tree. The man and his wife argue over how the first wish was used and end up using the other two wishes during their argument.	There are variations of this tale. A funny story where wishes come true regardless of whether or not they are thought through.	5+	3
The Wild Swans	Denmark	Determination can overcome anything.	Hans Christian Anderson	<i>Fairy Tales</i>	A King marries an evil witch that ruins his relationships with his children. The only daughter must overcome obstacles to break the spell cast over her brothers. They take the form of swans during the day.	A sad tale with a happy ending, this story shows that when you are determined to complete a task, you can overcome any obstacle.	8+	30

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