



Favorite Folktales from Around the World

Jane Yolen (Editor)

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Here between two covers you will find an inexhaustible source of delight for children and adults alike: the world's best folktales, chosen by the internationally known storyteller Jane Yolen. Over 150 tales are compiled from Iceland to Syria, Cuba to Papua.

Part of the Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folklore Library

Favorite Folktales from Around the World Details

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From Reader Review Favorite Folktales from Around the World for online ebook

Connor Ashcraft says

The monkey and the Crocodile:

A crocodile is told that his mother wants a monkey heart to eat so he leaves to kill one for her. He finds a monkey and tries to drown him, but then once the monkey knows that he is just after his heart he has an idea. He tells the croc that his heart is back up in the trees and that killing him would mean nothing if he didn't have the heart. So the croc lets him loose to get his heart and as the monkey runs away to the top of a tree he says that if the croc wants his heart he's going to have to go up to get it in the trees to get it.

This story taught a really good lesson about being so blinded by something that you want that you forget all other forms of logic. Being able to talk your way out of situations by fooling someone into thinking you're helping them when really you are just helping yourself. This story does a great job at telling a quick little tale to explain the dangers of keeping your mind in tunnel vision and not focusing on only what you want but how you get it. Also about tricking your way out of things by playing into the instincts of someone like that.

Federico says

Solo cero que le falto un poco de variedad, me hubiera gustado que se enfocara mas en el folklore de todos esos países. ya que algunas historias eran un tanto repetitivas sobre todo las de Europa.

Laura says

This was a great collection of folktales. I originally had to read some of the stories for a class, but I wanted to go back and read the entire book. I read a few of these each night for about a month and I enjoyed having these stories to read. This book contains a very diverse range of stories. They come from all over the world, and every story is labeled with its location. There are many different types of stories such as ghosts, shapeshifters, love, and death. I marked my favorites, and I had a lot in this book.

If you're looking for a collection of folktales that are not the usual ones you hear than this is a book you should look into.

Sarah says

The genre of this book would be folktale collections. This book won an award for World Fantasy Special Award- Professional. The age group for this book would be 12-17 years of age. This book has many collections of folktales from around the world. I rated this book a 4 because it was organized very well and had many great folktales that were included. Each folktale has a similar theme to it and it gives you a sense that some cultures are in a way similar to each other with there perspectives. The language is little different in some of the folktales but that is because it was written in different countries. I fell like if a story teller where to tell some of the folktales to younger children they would be interested but if they were reading it

themselves that it wouldn't be interesting for the younger children.

Olivia says

This is one of the best collections of folktales I have ever read. I have read a whole barrel of myths, legends, folktales and fairytales, and nevertheless there were only a handful of stories I had heard before. Also, the stories are written in such a way as to seem alive and are meant to be read aloud. It's wonderful to come across a collection of folktales meant to be enjoyed by both scholars and children.

Alicia Riley says

Excellent collection of folktales.

Sinistmer says

Great collection--it had a lot of tales from different parts of the world. It was neat to see some common threads, read some familiar one, and some new ones as well! From a resource standpoint, the notes in the back were only somewhat helpful, but that was a minor detractor. The stories are all pretty well-written and there is an effort to keep the colloquialisms.

Danna says

There are quite a few typos and grammar errors, but the book does provide a large collection of folktales, and the writing style isn't horrible. It's an alright book.

Olivia Ambrose says

Loads of stories from all over the world. Super fun!

Angela Benedetti says

This is a great collection, with stories from all over the world. Although it's heavy on tales of European origin, there are also Asian, African, Pacific Island and native American stories here and there.

The organization, sorting stories by theme, makes it easy to see similarities of devices and tropes; it's interesting to see two nearly identical stories from widely disparate cultures.

Jane Yolen provides framing information with a general introduction, plus an intro to each thematic section. There were times when I wanted more info, but this is primarily a story collection rather than a scholarly

analysis.

Interesting, diverse, enjoyable -- highly recommended.

Rachel Stephans says

Jane Yolen helps readers to connect to all areas of the world with her book, Favorite Folk Tales from Around the World. This collection of folktales, with tales from 40 different countries and cultures, travels the world in its variety but shows the connections between all cultures and people.

Divided into thirteen sections, the book helps the reader to recognize the similarities between different cultures through their tales. The different sections are: Telling Tales, The Very Young and the Very Old, True Love and False, Tricksters, Rogues and Cheats, The Fools: Numbskulls and Noodleheads, Heroes: Likely and Unlikely, Wonder Tales, Tall Tales, and Brag, Shape Shifters, Not Quite Human, Fooling the Devil, The Getting of Wisdom, Ghosts and Revenants, and Death and the World's End. In each section, there are five to ten tales with the main topic. But each culture puts its own spin on the topic, as each story is influenced greatly by its country of origin, as the cultural aspects are shown. The first section, Telling Tales, is stories of how a storyteller came to be a storyteller. But in many of the tales, the supernatural interferes in human life to help "make" the storytellers.

Reading this book enables the reader to see the similarities between different cultures and travel the world, experiencing a taste of the featured cultures. Jane Yolen brings the world alive in her book, Favorite Folktales from Around the World.

Saxitlurg says

The last story always gets me for some reason, I just love it.

Elyce says

Very fun! I used this book in speech and love it!

Cynthia says

Yolen, Jane. Favorite Folktales from Around the World (Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folklore Library) (1986).

Hero

The Iroquois story of "The Flying Head" tells the folktale of a giant head with wings that came out of its cheeks and a mouth full of fangs. This giant head would fly at night looking for its next meal. Until one night an unlikely hero outsmarts the Flying Head. Yolen's use of adjectives makes this story lively. Moreover, the description of the Flying Head makes it easy for the reader to create a mental picture. This folktale is perfect for ages 9 and up.

Trickster

The tale "The Men Who Wouldn't Stay Dead" tells about a wealthy hunchback that sets his mind on

marrying a beautiful young woman. When he reaches his goal and marries a poor girl his life was consumed by 24/7 jealousy. No one was allowed in his castle, but one day three hunchback men approached his gate in search for a drink. "What the devil!" is heard as a body has disappeared into a river. This trickster tale which results in death teaches us that nothing good can come from jealousy.

(Ages 9+)

Taboo: Connected with Supernatural Beings

"The Bad Wife" is a Russian tale that tells about a faithful husband and a disobedient wife. Her disobedience leads to her fate and her husband's pact with an imp. The man becomes wealthy because of the deal he has made with the imp. However, all good things must come to an end, or do they? This Russian tale teaches the reader to be careful who you trust.

(Ages 9+)

Kaitlin Marie-Brown Salter says

I like how this was organized by type of story instead of where the stories are from.
