

American Tall Tales

American Tall Tales are some of our nation's most creative and beloved stories. With heaping helpings of exaggeration, these tales present people and deeds that are bigger than life. Readers will enjoy stretching their imaginations and having their fantasies tickled with these charming, humorous, and highly engaging stories.

Here are the most robust characters in American legend. Told by a poet with a poet's ear for the impact of words, these American mavericks walk and talk across the pages in a free, wide way, as they walked and talked across the free, wide America of pioneer days.

History meets humor in 12 tremendous tall-tale hero stories!

"Paul Bunyan yarns have generally been conceded first place among the lies of all time, but here is Febold Feboldson, a Swede who has pushed his way out front and deserves recognition as the most accomplished, the most unqualified, the least repetitious, and--for a change--the most laughable legendary figure to steal the spotlight."--Buffalo, N.Y., Evening News. "Gorgeous reading for all who love genuine Americana."--The American Mercury. "Let us give Febold his full due as a purely regional phenomenon. As such--as an expression of the never-ending fight of Nebraskans against drought, flood, blistering heat, paralyzing cold, choking dust, and bottomless mud--he is very nearly perfect. . . . Paul Beath has done regional literature a service by collecting these richly imaginative tales."--Victor P. Hass, Chicago Sunday Tribune Magazine of Books. "Everyone who loves American folklore will welcome this book. . . . The book contains no less than fourteen tales or groups of anecdotes, all of them cheerful, sly, or hilarious."--Stanley Vestal, The Daily Oklahoman. "Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, John Henry, and others of heroic mold may move over and listen a while. . . . Febold, the big Swede who homesteaded down on the Dismal River, his only neighbors the Dirtyleg tribe of Indians, is a folk character made almost before our eyes."--Kansas City Star.

This two-volume collection of folktales represents some of the finest examples of American oral tradition. Drawn from the largest archive of American folk culture, the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, this set comprises magic tales, legends, jokes, tall tales and personal narratives, many of which have never been transcribed before, much less published, in a sweeping survey. Eminent folklorist and award-winning author Carl Lindahl selected and transcribed over 200 recording sessions - many from the 1920s and 1930s - that span the 20th century, including recent material drawn from the September 11 Project. Included in this varied collection are over 200 tales organized in chapters by storyteller, tale type or region, and representing diverse American cultures, from Appalachia and the Midwest to Native American and Latino traditions. Each chapter begins by discussing the storytellers and their oral traditions before presenting and introducing each tale, making this collection accessible to high school students, general readers or scholars.

When Bella boards a train west to reunite with her Buffalo soldier sweetheart, she encounters the most colorful and lively characters ever to roam the Western plains. Bullets and fists will fly, heads and hearts will break, but—blessed with a big heart, and a voluptuous figure—Bella will breeze on through it all.

For years many folklorists have denied the possibility of a truly American folk or fairy tale. They have argued that the tales found in the United States are watered-down derivatives of European fare. With this gathering, William Bernard McCarthy compiles evidence strongly to the contrary. *Cinderella in America: A Book of Folk and Fairy Tales* represents these tales as they have been told in the United States from Revolutionary days until the present. To capture this richness, tales are grouped in chapters that represent regional and ethnic groups, including Iberian, French, German, British, Irish, other European, African American, and Native American. These tales are drawn from published collections, journals, and archives, and from fieldwork by McCarthy and his colleagues. Created along the nationalist model of the Brothers Grimm yet as diverse in its voices and themes as the nation it represents, *Cinderella in America* shows these tales truly merit the designation American. William Bernard McCarthy is professor emeritus of English at Pennsylvania State University. His previous books are *The Ballad Matrix: Personality, Milieu, and the Oral Tradition* and *Jack in Two Worlds: Contemporary North American Tales and Their Tellers*.

For folklorists, students, as well as general readers, this is the most comprehensive survey of American folktales and legends currently available. It offers an amazing variety of American legend and lore - everything from Appalachian Jack tales, African American folklore, riddles, trickster tales, tall tales, tales of the supernatural, legends of crime and criminals, tales of women, and even urban legends. The anthology is divided into three main sections - Native American and Hawaiian Narratives, Folktales, and Legends - and within each section the individual stories explore the myriad narrative traditions and genres from various geographic regions of the United States. Each section and tale genre is introduced and placed in its narrative context by noted folklorist Frank de Caro. Tale type and motif indexes complete the work.

The perfect addition to every family's home library and just right for sharing aloud, *American Tall Tales* introduces readers to America's first folk heroes in nine wildly exaggerated and downright funny stories. Here are Paul Bunyan, that king-sized lumberjack who could fell "ten white pines with a single swing"; John Henry, with his mighty hammer; Mose, old New York's biggest, bravest fireman; Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind, who could "outgrin, outsnort, outrun, outlift, outsneeze, outsleep, outlie any varmint"; and other uniquely American characters, together in one superb collection. In the tradition of the original nineteenth-century storytellers, Mary Pope Osborne compiles, edits, and adds her own two cents' worth—and also supplies fascinating historical headnotes. Michael McCurdy's robust colored wood engravings recall an earlier time, perfectly capturing all the vitality of the men and women who carved a new country out of the North American wilderness.

To Carolyn Brown's mind, the tall tale is not necessarily an account of the adventures of a larger-than-life hero, nor is it just a humorous first-person narrative exaggerated to outlandish proportions. It is as well an interaction between teller and audience a game played at the hazy border between the credible and the incredible, a challenge and an entertainment at the same time. The tall tale is also a social statement that identifies and binds a folk group by flaunting the peculiar knowledge and experiences of group members, and it is a tool for coping with a stressful or even chaotic world, for conquering life's problems by laughing at them.

A big country begets big heroes and these stories about super-Americans are as humorous as they are incredible

This collection has 20 tales in the popular theatre format.

Retells four classic tales from American folklore, featuring Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, John Henry, and Johnny Appleseed, in graphic novel format.

A fascinating survey of the entire history of tall tales, folklore, and mythology in the United States from earliest times to the present, including stories and myths from the modern era that have become an essential part of contemporary popular culture. • Presents a compelling mix of some 500 entries drawn from traditional Native American and European American culture as well as Mexican American, African American, Chinese American, and other national traditions • Includes numerous primary documents that help readers to pinpoint and understand the origins of different myths and legends as well as how they evolve over time • Features a wide variety of entries drawn from newer traditions of science fiction, urban legends, and conspiracy theories • Supplies bibliographic references with each entry that include websites for further reading and research

This wonderful book is a collection of nine tall tales from America by renowned children's author Irwin Shapiro: Pecos Bill, Anthony and the Mossbunker, Old Stormalong, Johnny Appleseed, Davy Crockett, the Yaller Blossom o' the Forest, Sam Patch's Last Leap, Paul Bunyan, John Henry and Joe Magarac the Steel Man. Illustrated throughout by Al Schmidt.

American Tall Tales Knopf Books for Young Readers

Follow the adventures of Sal Fink, the "Mississippi Screamer" whose great feats, like riding an alligator, are retold in this fun script that eventually finds her held captive by a band of pirates.

Presents an illustrated collection of tall tales about such American folk heroes as Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind, Pecos Bill, John Henry, and Paul Bunyan. Reissue.

On the day she is born this amazing baby proudly announces she can out-talk, out-grin, out-scream, out-swim, and out-run any baby in Kentucky. Within a few years Sally is off to the frontier, where she stuns a hungry grizzly bear, makes a lasso out of six rattlesnakes, and is more than a match for the mighty Mike Fink. And when Sally Ann rescues Davy Crockett from a pair of ferocious eagles, even her hornet's-nest bonnet and skunk perfume don't stop him from proposing marriage. You won't find Sally Ann in any history book, but that hasn't kept her from becoming an authentic American frontier legend and the unforgettable heroine of Steven Kellogg's most delightfully rip-roaring tall tale.

Perform this American tall tale about how John Henry beat a steam drill.

This is a lively collection of folktales retold by the author, each of which features a female central character.

A collection of tall tales about such American folk heroes as Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind, Pecos Bill, John Henry, and Paul Bunyan.

Journey into the nation's past with this gallery of 30 figures of history and folklore — Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, Annie Oakley, Johnny Appleseed, Casey Jones, Betsy Ross, and other characters.

An illustrated celebration of America conjures up a nostalgic era, featuring such celebrated figures as Pecos Bill riding a mountain lion, Davy Crockett getting outfoxed by a raccoon, and Sweet Betsy from Pike on her trip west.

Based on a real person, this tall tale tells the story of legendary train engineer Casey Jones and his heroic last ride on the Cannonball Express. Additional features to aid comprehension include background information and historical context of the tale, and an introduction to the author and illustrator.

A collection of twenty stories about legendary American women, drawing from folktales, popular stories, and ballads.

Nine stories are featured, followed by information detailing the origins of each tale.

A collection of American tall tales about such animals as a rattlesnake that knew Morse code, mosquitoes as big as police dogs, and birds that flew backward, not to mention the Squonks, Whifflepooffles, and Gillygalooos. Includes stories featuring American folk heroes like Pecos Bill, Paul Bunyan, Bowleg Bill, and Uncle Davy Lane.

Act out the story of Davy Crockett, the legendary frontiersman, with this engaging Reader's Theater script! The roles in this script correspond with different reading levels, allowing teachers to use differentiation and English language learner strategies to assign specific roles to students, accommodating all reading levels. This dynamic activity allows all students to participate in this activity, gaining confidence in their reading fluency and feeling successful! Through performance, students will practice important skills like reading aloud, interacting cooperatively, and using expressive voices and gestures. Additionally, students can recite a poem or sing a catchy song about Davy Crockett to continue practicing fluency at the end of the story. By connecting to popular children's literature in a lively way and enabling active participation, this script makes rereading an enjoyable and engaging activity. This colorful, leveled script is the perfect tool to get all students to participate and build fluency.

Tales from American folklore about bad men, ghosts, lies, and Native American tales.

Offers a brief history of the "exaggerated" picture postcard, and how it captured many facets of life in turn-of-the-century small-town America

The acclaimed author of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and many other juvenile fantasy books, L. Frank Baum had a lifelong fascination with fables, folklore, mythology, and fairy tales. This volume collects a series of engaging fantasy stories that follow the format of the world's best-loved fairy tales, combining imagination and adventure with valuable moral lessons.

Winner of the 2018 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work, Fiction These nearly 150 African American folktales animate our past and reclaim a lost cultural legacy to redefine American literature. Drawing from the great folklorists of the past while expanding African American lore with dozens of tales rarely seen before, *The Annotated African American Folktales* revolutionizes the canon like no other volume. Following in the tradition of such classics as Arthur Huff Fauset's *"Negro Folk Tales from the South"* (1927), Zora Neale Hurston's *Mules and Men* (1935), and Virginia Hamilton's *The People Could Fly* (1985), acclaimed scholars Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Maria Tatar assemble a groundbreaking collection of folktales, myths, and legends that revitalizes a vibrant African American past to produce the most comprehensive and ambitious collection of African American folktales ever published in American literary history. Arguing for the value of these deceptively simple stories as part of a sophisticated, complex, and heterogeneous cultural heritage, Gates and Tatar show how these remarkable stories deserve a place alongside the classic works of African American literature, and American literature more broadly. Opening with two introductory essays and twenty seminal African tales as historical background, Gates and Tatar present nearly 150 African American stories, among them familiar Brer Rabbit classics, but also stories like "The Talking Skull" and "Witches Who Ride," as well as out-of-print tales from the 1890s' *Southern Workman*. Beginning with the figure of Anansi, the African trickster, master of improvisation—a spider who plots and weaves in scandalous ways—*The Annotated African American Folktales* then goes on to draw Caribbean and Creole tales into the orbit of the folkloric canon. It retrieves stories not seen since the Harlem Renaissance and brings back archival tales of "Negro folklore" that Booker T. Washington proclaimed had emanated from a "grapevine" that existed even before the

American Revolution, stories brought over by slaves who had survived the Middle Passage. Furthermore, Gates and Tatar's volume not only defines a new canon but reveals how these folktales were hijacked and misappropriated in previous incarnations, egregiously by Joel Chandler Harris, a Southern newspaperman, as well as by Walt Disney, who cannibalized and capitalized on Harris's volumes by creating cartoon characters drawn from this African American lore. Presenting these tales with illuminating annotations and hundreds of revelatory illustrations, The Annotated African American Folktales reminds us that stories not only move, entertain, and instruct but, more fundamentally, inspire and keep hope alive. The Annotated African American Folktales includes: Introductory essays, nearly 150 African American stories, and 20 seminal African tales as historical background The familiar Brer Rabbit classics, as well as news-making vernacular tales from the 1890s' Southern Workman An entire section of Caribbean and Latin American folktales that finally become incorporated into the canon Approximately 200 full-color, museum-quality images

A collection of American tall tales featuring such legendary characters as Davy Crockett, Paul Bunyan, and Pecos Bill.

The race is on between railroad worker, Mighty John Henry, and a drilling machine, as both drill through a mountain to make way for the railroad. Find out who wins in this fun, colorful script that recants the adventures of this former slave.

Contains eight well-known folktales.

The American West is a complex region that has inspired generations of writers and artists. Often portrayed as a quintessential landscape that symbolizes promise and progress for a developing nation, the American West is also a diverse space that has experienced conflicting and competing hopes and expectations. While it is frequently imagined as a place enabling dreams of new beginnings for settler communities, it is likewise home to long-standing indigenous populations as well as many other ethnic and racial groups who have often produced different visions of the land. This History encompasses the intricacy of Western American literature by exploring myriad genres and cultural movements, from ecocriticism, settler colonial studies and transnational theory, to race, ethnic, gender and sexuality studies. Written by a host of leading historians and literary critics, this book offers readers insight into the West as a site that sustains canonical and emerging authors alike, and as a region that exceeds national boundaries in addressing long-standing global concerns and developments.

Act out the story of Annie Oakley, the legendary cowgirl and star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, with this engaging Reader's Theater script! With leveled roles, this script allows teachers to apply differentiation and English language learner strategies into instruction, encouraging all students to engage in the activity. All students can participate, gain confidence in their reading fluency, and feel successful, regardless of their reading ability! Students will practice reading aloud, using expressive voices and gestures, and interacting cooperatively by performing this story with their peers. When the story is over, students can also practice fluency with the additional poem and catchy song. This colorful, leveled script connects to popular children's literature in an engaging way, making reading and rereading an enjoyable activity. This script is the perfect tool to get all students to participate and enjoy practicing fluency.

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