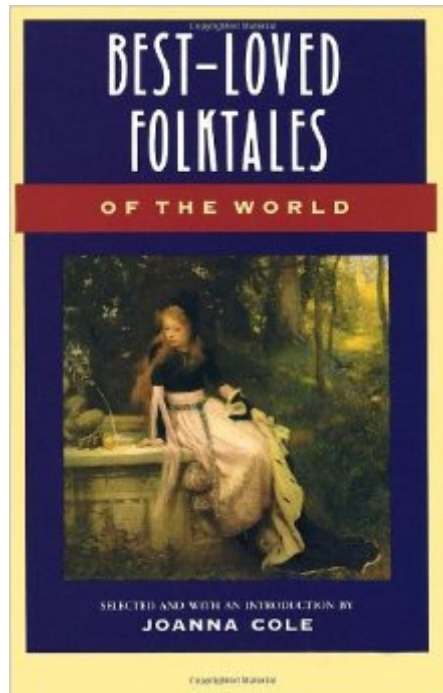


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Best-Loved Folktales Of The World (The Anchor Folktale Library)



Synopsis

A collection of over 200 folk and fairy tales from all over the world, this is the only edition that encompasses all cultures. Arranged geographically by region, this book also includes category index groups that list the stories by plot and character.

Book Information

Series: The Anchor folktale library

Paperback: 816 pages

Publisher: Anchor (August 9, 1983)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385189494

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Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (37 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #69,846 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Mythology & Folk Tales > Fairy Tales](#) #157 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Folklore & Mythology](#) #7857 in [Books > Teens](#)

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Nearly 800 pages of adventure, humor, and thought abound in this wonderful collection! Included are the tales everyone knows like Rumpelstiltskin, Rapunzel, Jack and the Beanstalk, and others we loved as children. But this book also includes wonderful imaginative fantasy that won't appear in every children's fairy tale book. Did you know about the giant who had no heart in his body? How about the mean spirited half-chicken who eventually became a weather vane? This book contains 200 stories from all parts of the world, more varied than the "Small World" ride at Disneyland, and just as enjoyable for those who love to read! Sit down with this book and open a page at random, and guaranteed it will be difficult to put down! Each imaginative story can be read in only a few minutes, but there are so many of them that it will be difficult to remember them all, and the stories themselves make for great conversation pieces, or to tell to children (which was their original intent after all.) A must read for those who love ancient fantasy!

This rich, nearly 850-page long volume contains two hundred carefully selected folk and fairy tales from all over the world that include adventure, mystery, romance, humor, drama, fantasy and horror. You will find this book difficult to put down whether you decide to enjoy it on your own, or read from it to your children in family gatherings or at bedtime. Organized by geographic region, from Europe to the Middle East to Asia, Africa and America, this wide-ranging collection includes some well-known stories like "Jack and the Beanstalk" and "Beauty and the Beast," and not so known, but equally charming ones like "The Forest Bride" and "The Fire on the Mountain," all of which will evoke feelings of awe and wonder at the vast wealth of traditions and mythologies of our world's cultures. Moreover, the wonderful introduction to this volume explains the considerations that went into selecting the tales, commenting on the origins, evolution, lore, compilation and study of the world's folktales, analyzing their motifs, and even presenting interesting comparisons between them. As a bonus, this book includes a category index to help you choose the tales according to their topic, including tales of Wise Men and Judges, tales of Giants, Ogres and Male Monsters, and tales of Ghosts and the Supernatural, among others. A thorough index by title is also available. Overall, this is the best collection of fairy tales and folktales available in a single volume. Get it today, and enjoy it for years to come.--Reviewed by M. E. Volmar

Many of the stories derive from oral tradition where tellers and listeners are kept on track by certain repeated formulas. For example whenever Irish hero Fin MacCoul faces great danger his comrades urge him to chew his thumb: Fin chewed his thumb, from blood to bone, from bone to marrow, then he knew what to do. As you see the stories are not sanitized into mind-numbing blandness. (Wicked stepmothers get theirs just desserts in pretty gruesome ways, too.) If you are reading to a pre-schooler you will want to read ahead so that you are ready to skip over or tone things down in places. These stories have more punch and hold the interest of kids who are a bit older. They are also attractive for having more variation in word order and sentence structure. You can model using a dictionary for occasional words. (I knew copse was a grove of trees, but beadle required looking up, for example.) You can also use a globe to locate the countries of origin. About half of the 200 stories come from European countries; the other half come from the rest of the world.

Cole's collection of folktales was published originally in 1982. Its ability to stay in print is a testament to its great depth and array of fairy tales from around the world. The tales are organized by region in the table of contents and are grouped by topic and themes in the index. This is a great standard collection of fairy tales for any library.

We have read a few of these stories and they are all well written. This is such a fantastic collection and I like how the stories are grouped by region. Definitely a good addition to a child's collection of literature!

This is one of my favorite folk tale books out there. It's a HUGE collection of stories from all over the world, all sorts of different cultures represented here (I will say, though, that a large number of the stories are from Europe, so the different regions/cultures aren't exactly equally represented). But still, I quite often find myself picking this up and reading a story or two.

There are a few well known stories in here which encompass the first few chapters of the book, then the stories are listed geographically. I've noticed that Norway has some grizzly story tales and the Russian Fables are all about Czars and poor stupid peasants. There are a few gems here and there but most of these stories are not ones I would tell to my children because they do not enshrine values I would wish to instill. For the price you are getting an excellent compendium of fables and tales from across the globe, and from that viewpoint you are seeing what is important to teach the young in different parts of the planet. For that gathering of knowledge I am very appreciative, but the tales selected do not come across to me as altogether interesting or enjoyable.

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