

Children Telling Stories

A Storytelling Unit in Action

By Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss

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About the Stories

Present your class with a variety of stories from which to choose. We have included twenty-five stories to get you started. Most of the tales are simple and short, since it's difficult to find stories that are easy enough for young students or first-time tellers of any age to tell successfully. (Our anthologies and picture books, as well as the lists of good stories for telling in Appendix A, provide you with many more story possibilities for both older and younger students.) The lists in Appendix A rank these stories by difficulty level and give guidance on whether they are appropriate for specific grade levels.

The copyrighted versions of the stories that follow were written by Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss, except for "Coyote and the Money Tree," which was written by Byrd Baylor. Teachers who own *Children Tell Stories* may make one set of copies for use by students in their classrooms. They may NOT post the stories on the Internet or share them with others in any format.

Sources for the stories can be found at the end of this document. The stories are arranged in lines that match oral phrasing to make them easier for students to learn and tell.

The last four stories are samples from anthologies of world stories we have written in a format for telling by students. All these anthologies are available at our Web site at www.beautyandthebeaststorytellers.com and from the publishers listed:

"Tilly" is from *Stories in My Pocket: Tales Kids Can Tell*. The book includes thirty stories in the same format (text of the story on the left with tips for telling on the right). Available from Fulcrum Publishing at www.fulcrum-books.com, 800-992-2908.

"Why Parrots Only Repeat What People Say" is from *How & Why Stories: World Tales Kids Can Read and Tell*. The book includes twenty-five pourquoi stories with tips for telling. Available from August House Publishers at www.augusthouse.com, 800-284-8784.

"Juan Bobo and the Pot That Would Not Walk" is from *Noodlehead*

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Stories: World Tales Kids Can Read and Tell. The book contains twenty-three world tales about fools with tips for telling. Available from August House Publishers at www.augusthouse.com, 800-284-8784.

"The Argument Between the Sea and the Sky" is from *Through the Grapevine: World Tales Kids Can Read and Tell.* The book contains thirty-one world tales of many kinds with tips for telling. Available from August House Publishers at www.augusthouse.com, 800-284-8784.

The Boy Who Turned Himself into a Peanut: A Story from the Democratic Republic of Congo

One day, a boy decided to fool his father.
He said, "I'll hide myself so well that you won't be able to find me."
"Hide wherever you like," said the father. "I'll go home and take a rest."

So the boy looked for a hiding place.
He saw a peanut that had three kernels.
He turned himself into one of the kernels and hid in the peanut.
I don't know how he could have done that,
but that's the way the story goes.

Just then a rooster came along and swallowed the peanut.
Then a wild bush cat leaped on the rooster and ate him up.
A dog saw the bush cat and gobbled him down.
When the dog fell asleep, a python slithered by and ate him.
Then the python slithered down to the river and was caught in a fish trap.

Meanwhile, the father woke up. He looked everywhere for his son.
When he couldn't find him, he walked to the river to inspect his fish trap.

He was surprised to find a large python.
He opened the python and found a dog.
He opened the dog and found a bush cat.
He opened the bush cat and found a rooster.
He opened the rooster and found a peanut.

When he opened the peanut, out jumped his son!
The boy was so surprised to be found
that he never tried to fool his father again.

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Sources for the Stories in *Children Tell Stories: Teaching and Using Storytelling in the Classroom and Those in Printable Format on This DVD*

All of these stories were retold by Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss, unless otherwise noted. The motifs referred to in this list are from *The Storyteller's Sourcebook: A Subject, Title, and Motif Index to Folklore Collections for Children 1983–1999* by Margaret Read MacDonald and Brian Sturm (Detroit: Gale, 1999) and *The Storyteller's Sourcebook: A Subject, Title, and Motif Index to Folklore Collections for Children*, 1st ed., by Margaret Read MacDonald (Detroit: Gale, 1982).

Aesop's Fables There are far too many versions of these stories available to list. Our favorite old collection is *The Fables of Aesop* by Joseph Jacobs (London: Macmillan, 1912). A favorite recent version is *Aesop's Fables* by Jerry Pinkney (New York: Seastar Books, 2000).

The Argument Between the Sea and the Sky Philippine variants of this story can be found in *Myths and Legends of the Early Filipinos* by F. Landa Jocano (Quezon City, Philippines: Alemar Phoenix, 1971), pp. 5–6; *Philippine Folk Tales* by Mabel Cook Cole (Chicago: A. C. McClurg, 1916), pp. 187–188; and *Once in the First Times: Folk Tales from the Philippines* by Elizabeth Hough Sechrist (Philadelphia: Macrae Smith, 1949), pp. 3–5.

The Belly (Aesop) See "Aesop's Fables."

The Boy Who Turned Himself into a Peanut (Democratic Republic of Congo) The major motif in this story is Z43.5 *Boy changes self to nut*. Versions can be found in *A World of Nonsense: Strange and Humorous Tales from Many Lands* by Carl Withers (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1968); *The Baby's Story Book* by Kay Choro (New York: Dutton, 1985); and *Nursery Tales from Around the World* by Judy Sierra (New York: Clarion, 1996).

Coyote and the Money Tree (Apache) retold by Byrd Baylor from *And It Is Still That Way* © 1976 by Byrd Baylor, available at www.cincopuntos.com.

The Dog and His Reflection (Aesop) See "Aesop's Fables."

Excuses, Excuses (Aesop) See "Aesop's Fables."

The Frog and the Ox (Aesop) See "Aesop's Fables."

A Handful of Peanuts (Aesop) See "Aesop's Fables."

How Rabbit Fooled Whale and Elephant (African-American) The major motif in this story is K22.0.5 *Hare arranges tug between elephant and whale*. Versions can be found in *Bo Rabbit Smart for True* by Priscilla Jaquith (New York: Philomel, 1995); *How the People Sang the Mountains Up* by Maria Leach (New York: Viking, 1967); and *With a Wig, With a Wag, and Other American Folktales* by Jean Cothran (New York: McKay, 1954).

How the Milky Way Came to Be (Iran) The major motif in this story is A778.12 *Origin of the Milky Way*. A version appears in *Out of the Sky* by Eva Knox Evans (Carrollton, GA: Publication Committee, West Georgia College, 1944).

The Jackal and the Lion (India) The major motif in this story is K1715.0.1 *Weak animal shows strong animal his own reflection and frightens him*. We found versions in *Tales of Laughter: A Third Fairy Book* by Kate D. Wiggin and Nora A. Smith (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1922); and *Folklore of the Telugus* by G. R. Subramiah Pantalub (New Delhi: Rupa & Co., 2003).

Juan Bobo and the Pot That Would Not Walk The major motif in this story is J1881.1.3, *Three-legged pot sent to walk home*. We found variants from England, France, Spain, India, and the United States. Puerto Rican versions can be found in *Greedy Mariani and Other Folktales of the Antilles* by Dorothy Sharp Carter (New York: Atheneum, 1974); *The Tiger and the Rabbit and Other Tales* by Pura Belpre (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1946); and *The Three Wishes: A Collection of Puerto Rican Folktales* by Ricardo E. Alegria (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1969).

Like Meat Loves Salt (Europe) The major motif in this story is H592.1.0.1 *Youngest daughter "loves father like salt" is banished ...* We found many versions including those in *Ride with the Sun*, edited by Harold Courlander for the U.N. Women's Guild (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1955); and *The Soup Stone* by Maria Leach (New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1954).

The Little House (Russia) The motif of this story is J2199.5 *Fools (usually animals) invite all comers to join them*. Our version was adapted from *Picture Tales from the Russian* by Valery Carrick (New York: Lippincott, 1913).

Monkeys to the Rescue (Tibet) This story contains the common motif J1791.2 *Rescuing the moon* and also J2133.5 *Men hang down in a chain ...* We found versions in *Tibetan Folk Tales* by Frederick and Audry Hyde-Chambers (Boston: Shambhala, 1981); and in *Fables from Afar* by Catherine T. Bryce (New York: Newson & Co., 1910).

Problems, Problems, Problems (India) This story has several motifs: J2100 *Remedies worse than disease*; J2102.8 *Frogs to eat insects, snakes to eat frogs*; and J2103 *Expensive extermination of rodents*. Versions appear in *The Oral Tales of India* by Stith Thompson and Jonas Balys (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1976); and in *Earth Care: World Tales to Talk About* by Margaret Read MacDonald (North Haven, CT: Shoestring Press, 1999). For a similar African variant, see *The Crest and the Hide* by Harold Courlander (New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1982); and *Eleven Nature Tales* by Pleasant DeSpain (Little Rock, AR: August House, 1996).

The Rat Princess (Japan) The motif of this story is L392.0.2 *Mouse bride*. We found versions in *Eurasian Folk and Fairy Tales* by I. F. Bulatkin (New York: Criterion, 1965); *The Dancing Kettle and Other Japanese Fairy Tales* (New York: Harcourt Brace, 1949); and *A Treasury of Animal Stories* by Linda Yeatman (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1982).

Sneezy Original story by third grader Erik Devenpeck.

The Tailor (Jewish/Eastern Europe) Retold by Nancy Schimmel in *Just Enough to Make a Story: A Source Book for Storytelling* (Berkeley, CA: Sister's Choice, 1992).

Three Goats in a Turnip Field (Norway) The main motif of this story is Z39.1 *The goat who would not go home*. Versions can be found in *Through the Farmyard Gate* by Emilie Poulsson (Boston: Lothrop, 1896); *Nursery Tales Around the World* by Judy Sierra (New York: Clarion, 1996); and *Tomie DePaola's Favorite Nursery Tales* (New York: Putnam, 1986).

Two Stubborn Goats on One Narrow Bridge (Cameroon) The motif of this story is W167.1 *Two stubborn goats meet each other on a bridge*. MacDonald cites Russian, French, and Greek variants. We found a version from Cameroon in *Tortoise the Trickster and Other Folktales from Cameroon* by Loreto Todd (New York: Schocken, 1979).

Tilly The motif in this story is Z13.1.3 *Ghosts get nearer and nearer*. Other versions can be found in "The Voice" in *More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* by Alvin Schwartz (New York: Harper & Row, 1984, p. 45); "I'm Coming up the Stairs" in *Whistle in the Graveyard: Folktales to Chill Your Bones* by Maria Leach (New York: Viking, 1974, pp. 57-58); and "Tillie Williams" in *The Scary Story Reader* by Richard and Judy Dockrey Young (Little Rock, AR: August House, 1993, pp. 120-123).

The Two Who Tried to Please Everyone (Aesop) See "Aesop's Fables."

Why Deer and Tiger Fear Each Other (Brazil) The major motif of this story is K1715.3.2 *Goat (deer) begins to build a house ...* Brazilian variants can be found in *Ride with the Sun*, edited by Harold Courlander (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1955); *Fairy Tales from Brazil* by Elsie Spicer Fells (New York: Dodd Mead, 1917); and *More Ready-to-Tell Tales from Around the World* (Little Rock, AR: August House, 2000).

Why Frogs Croak When It Rains (Korea) The motif of this story is A2426.4.1.2 *Why frog croaks in wet weather*. Versions can be found in *Korean Folk and Fairy Tales* by Susan Crowder Han (Elizabeth, NJ: Hollym, 1991); *Folk Tales from Korea* by Zong In-Sob (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1952); and *The Green Frogs* by Yumi Heo (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1996).

Why Parrots Only Repeat What People Say The major motif is J1151.1.3.1.1 *Lorikeet tells neighbors ...* Versions can be found in "The Bird That Told Tales" in *The Elephant's Bathtub: Wonder Tales from the Far East* by Frances Carpenter (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1962, pp. 58–65); "Why the Parrot Repeats Man's Words" in *Ride with the Sun: Folktales and Stories from All Countries of the United Nations*, edited by Harold Courlander (New York: Whittlesey House, 1955, pp. 34–37); "The Lorikeet and Man" in *Tales from Thailand* by Marian Davies Toth (Rutland, VT: Chas E. Tuttle, 1971, pp. 166–168); and "Why the Parrot and the Minor Bird but Echo the Words of Man" in *Laos Folklore of Farther India* by K. N. Fleeson (Chicago: Revell & Co., 1899, pp. 41–44).

Wind and Sun (Aesop) See "Aesop's Fables."