

Traditional Literature

Grades 1 & 2



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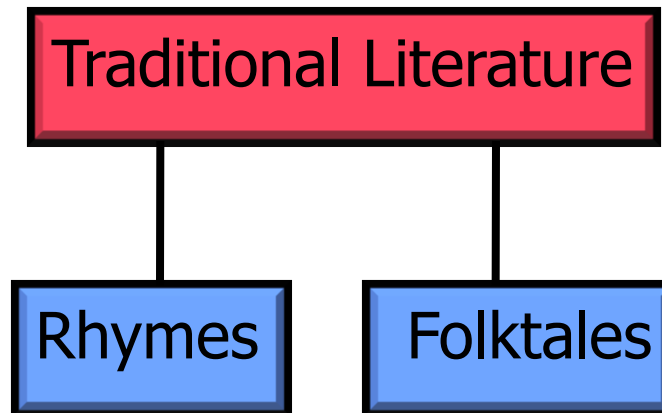
What is Traditional Literature?



- **Traditional literature** includes the rhymes and stories that were originally told out loud in huts, tents, or around a fire, and passed down through the years.
- Also called folklore, these stories have no known authors.
- Told by people in all lands to explain their lives and their world.
- Tell us how people thought and what they valued.
- Includes: **rhymes** and **folktales**.

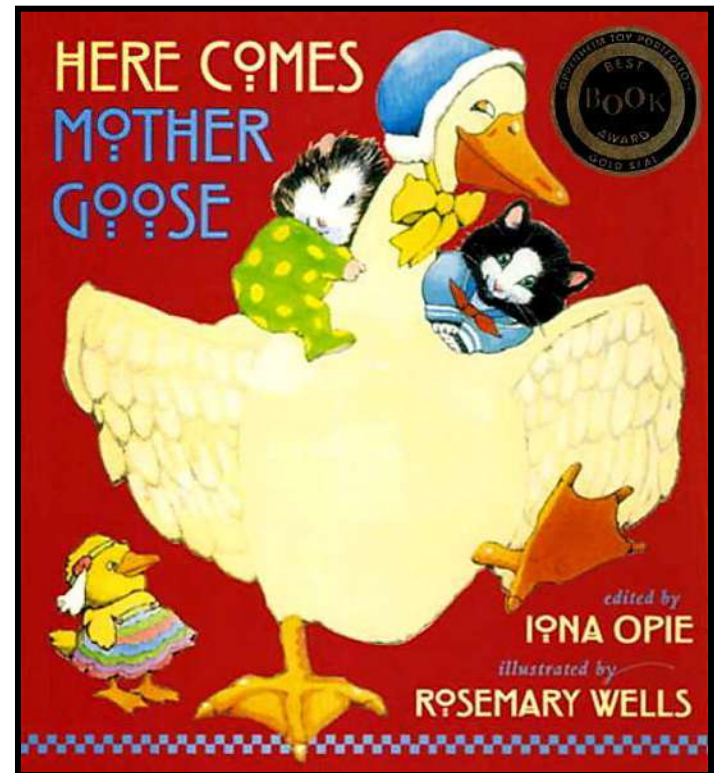


Types of Traditional Literature

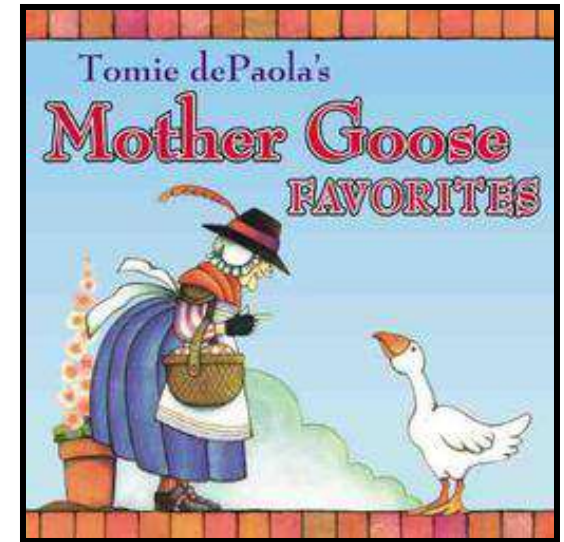
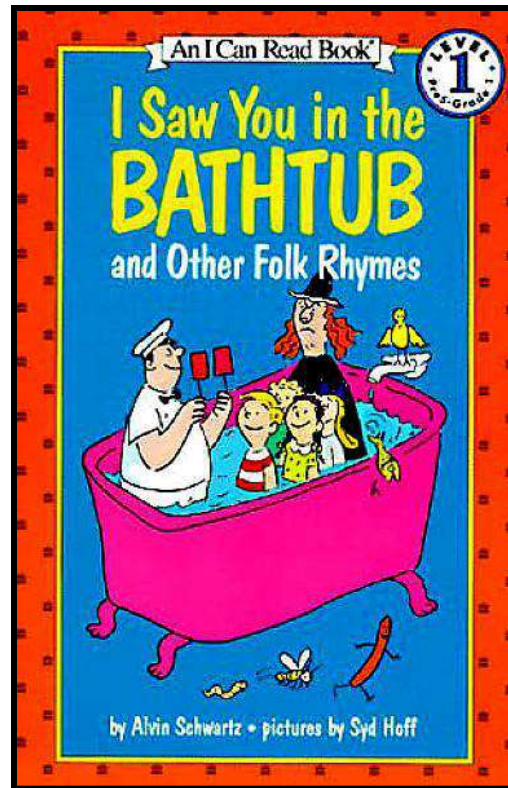
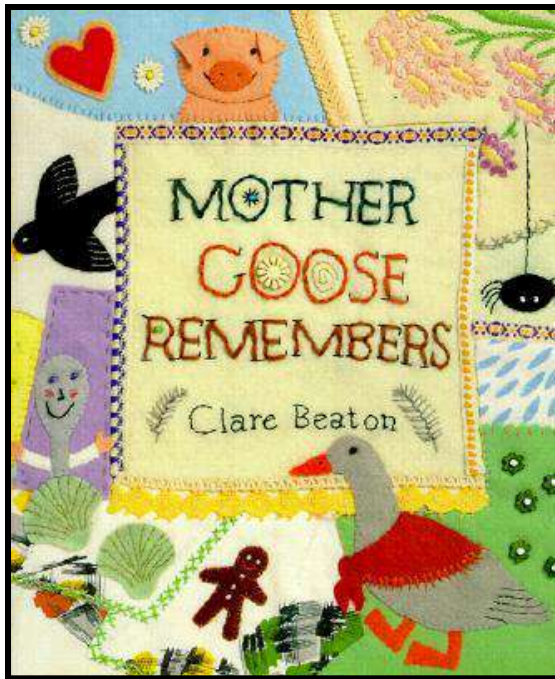


Folk Rhymes

- Rhymes are a type of traditional literature.
- Enjoyed by young children.
- Mother Goose collections are best-known folk rhymes.
- Includes: counting rhymes, finger play, riddles, games, alphabets, time verses, songs, tongue twisters, nonsense rhymes, superstitions, and memorable characters.



Other Folk Rhyme Books





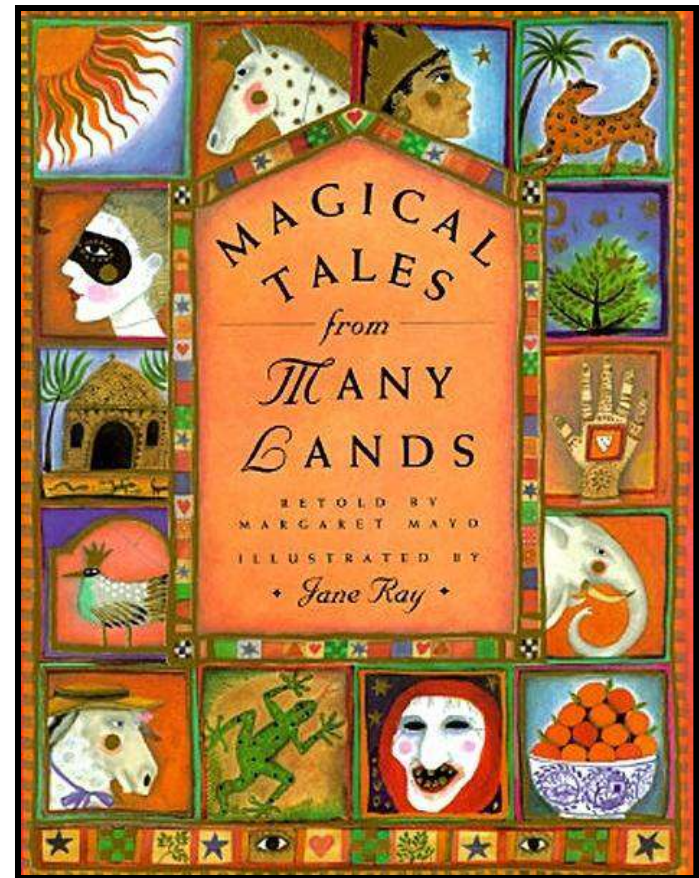
What are folktales?

- Folktales are stories that have been passed down through the years.
- Told out loud before written down.
- No one knows who first told them.
- Stories with talking beasts, kings and princesses, witches and wishes.
- Used for education and entertainment.
- Show values and beliefs of people who lived long ago
- Filled with special details called *motifs*.

(See slides 7-14)

Motifs

- A motif is a detail, or small part, that is repeated in the story.
- Found in folktales around the world.
- Give folktales their special flavor.



Common Motifs

Common folktale motifs are:

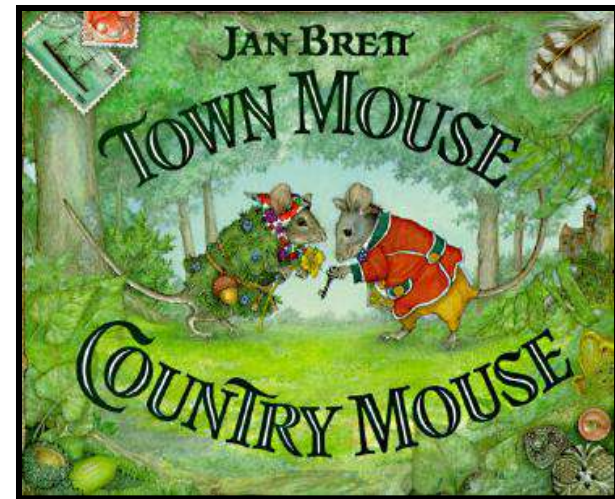
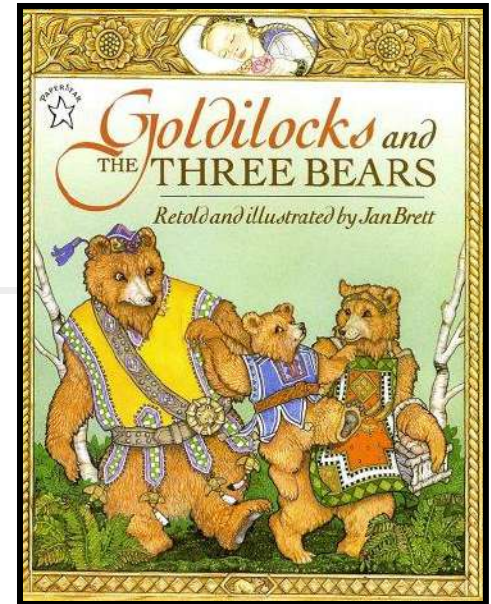
- Talking animals
- Special number 3
- Magical creatures
- Magical objects
- Chants
- Enchantments



Fee Fi Fo Fum!

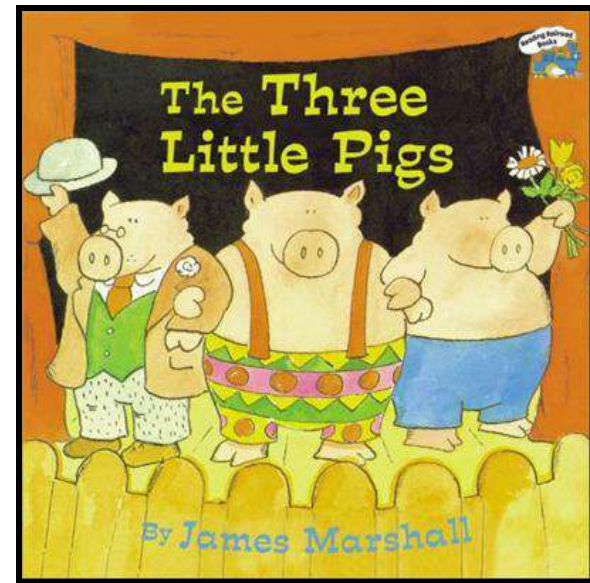
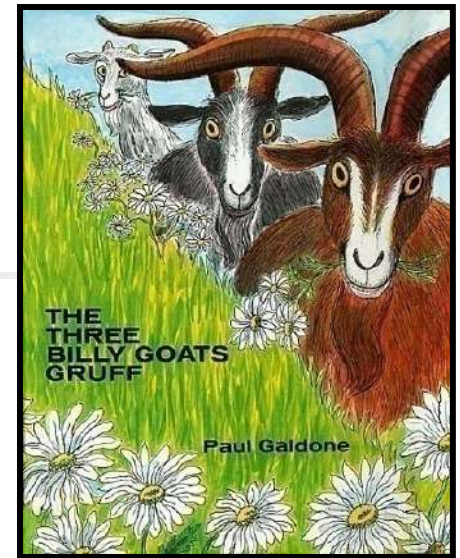
Talking Animals Motif

- Animals talk to other animals or to people.
- Accepted as natural in folktales.



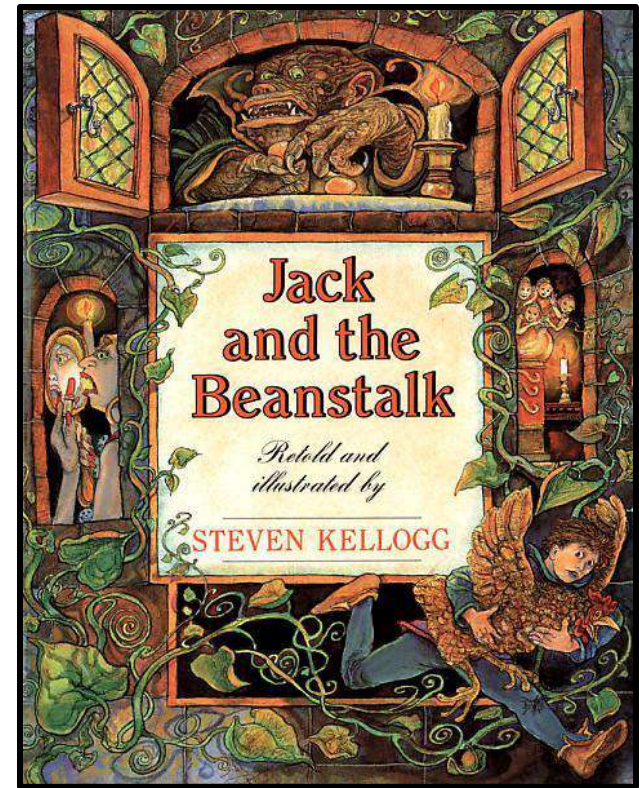
Special Number Motif

- Number 3 appears frequently in folktales:
- Number of main characters: 3 little pigs, 3 Billy Goats Gruff, 3 bears.
- Number of actions or events: crossing the bridge 3 times, building 3 houses, 3 wishes.



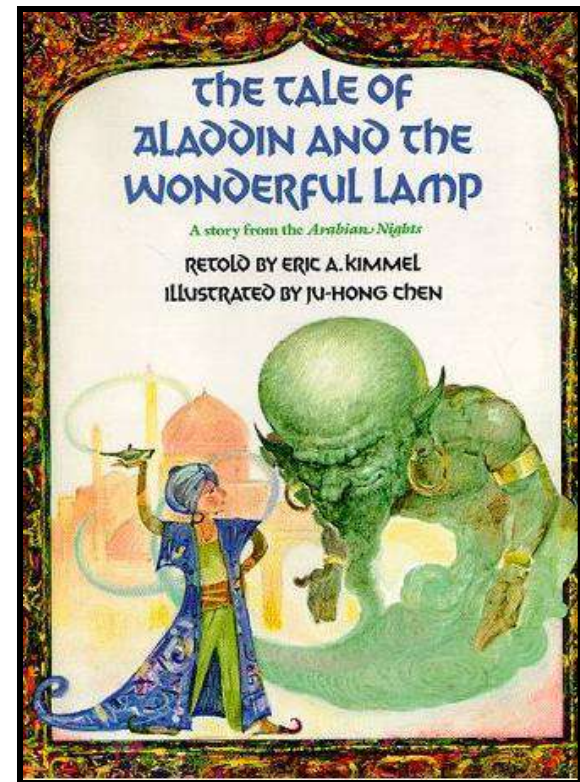
Magical Creatures Motif

- Magical creatures with special abilities in folktales include: fairies, elves, trolls, genies, giants, ogres, magic hens, witches and wizards.
- Magical creatures can be bad or good.
- Often serve as “magical helpers” to the main character: e.g., the fairy godmother helps Cinderella.



Magical Objects Motif

- Magical objects in folktales include: pasta or porridge pot, mirror, wand, ring, beanstalk, hen, harp, doll, flying carpet and genie's lamp.
- Often used by the main character for help, e.g., Aladdin uses the lamp to call the genie.



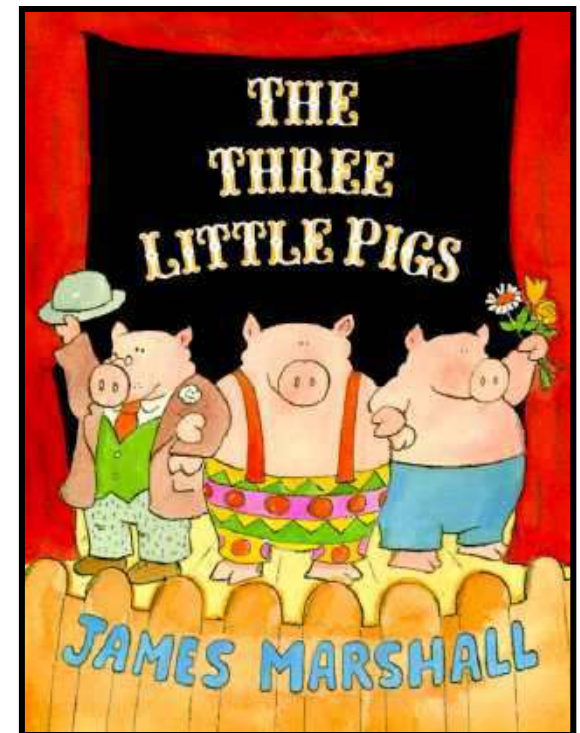
Chants Motif

- Chants are short rhymes that are repeated in a story.
- Frequently spoken in folktales.
- Examples include:

"Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall..."

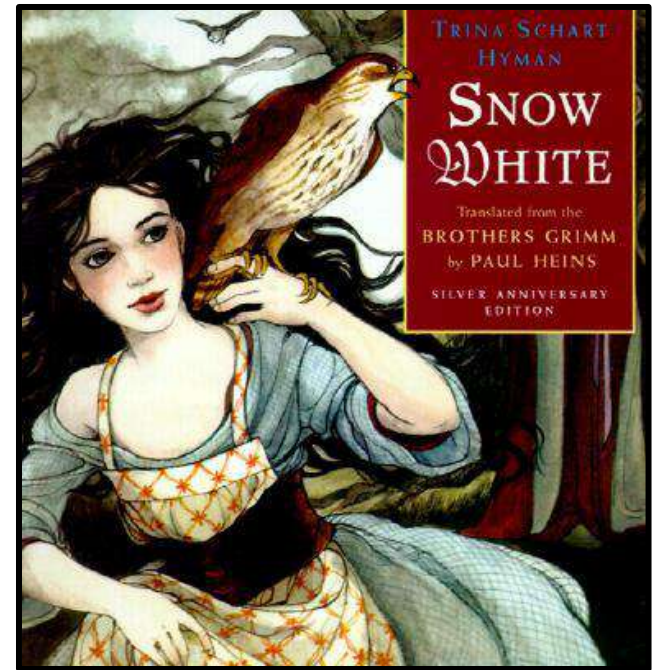
"Fee, Fo, Fum..."

"Then I'll huff and I'll puff..."



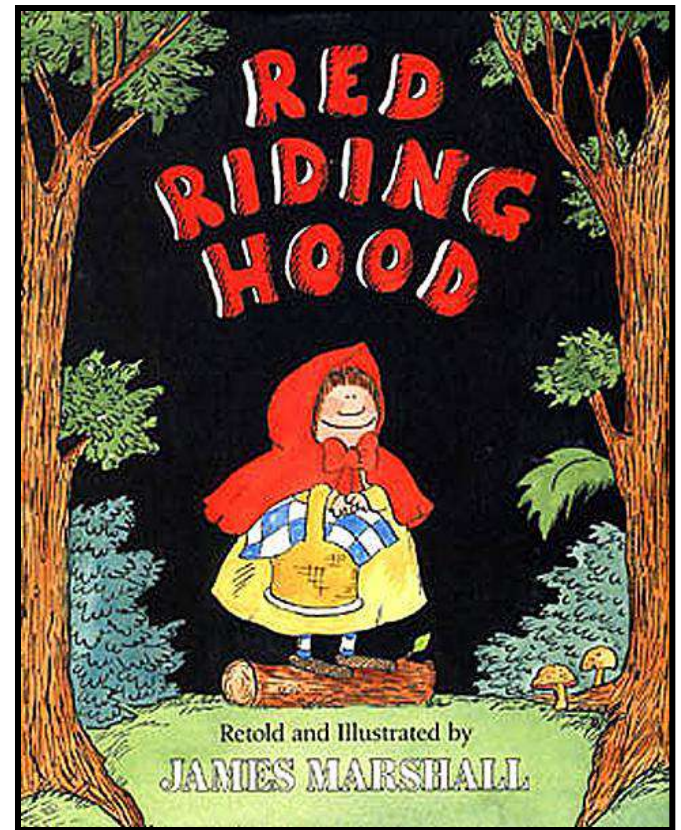
Enchantment Motif

- Magical creatures often place another character under enchantment, or spell.
- Snow White and Sleeping Beauty were under spells.
- Spells broken by acts of kindness, bravery or love.

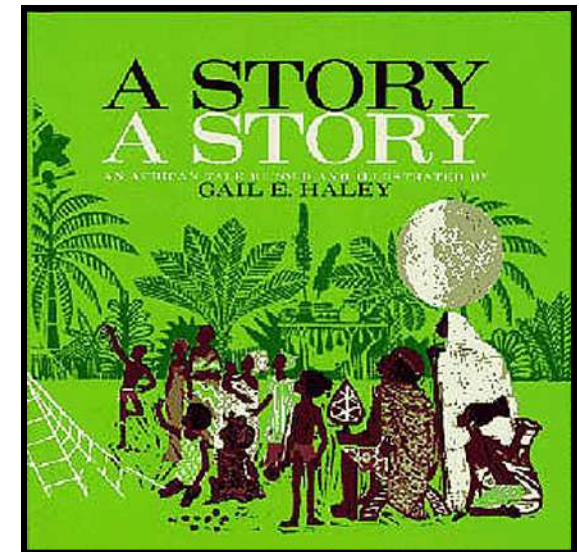
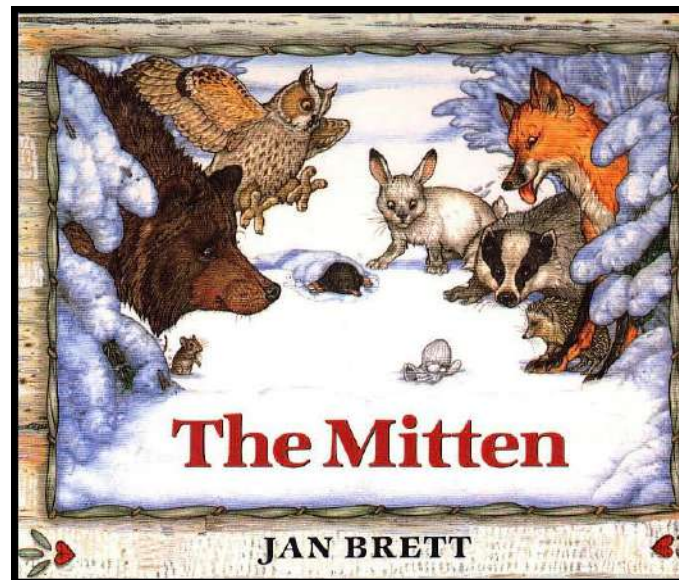
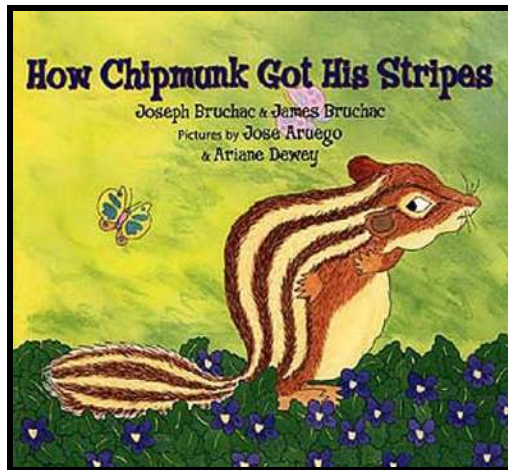


Folktale Characteristics

- Characters all good or all bad.
- Set in distant past.
- Often start with, "Once upon a time..."
- Often provide lesson.
- Have common themes: kindness is rewarded; cruelty is punished.
- Have many motifs.

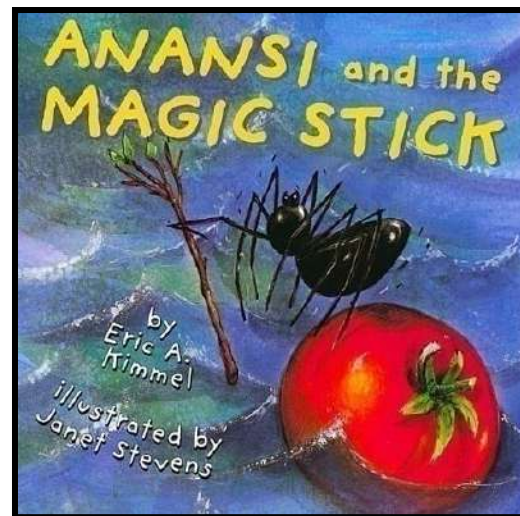
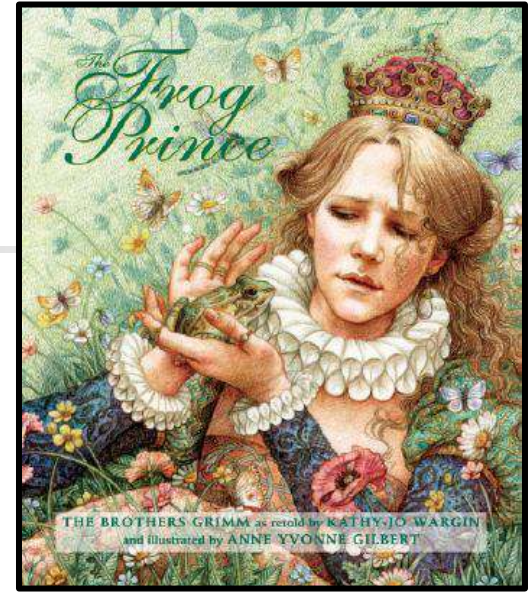


Folktale Book Examples



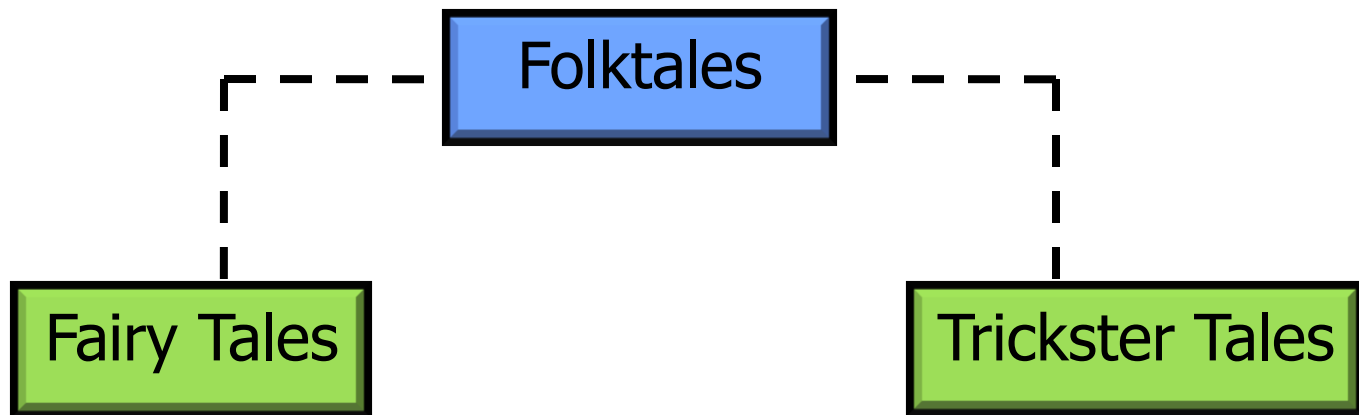
Types of Folktales

Special kinds of folktales include: **fairy tales** and **trickster tales**.



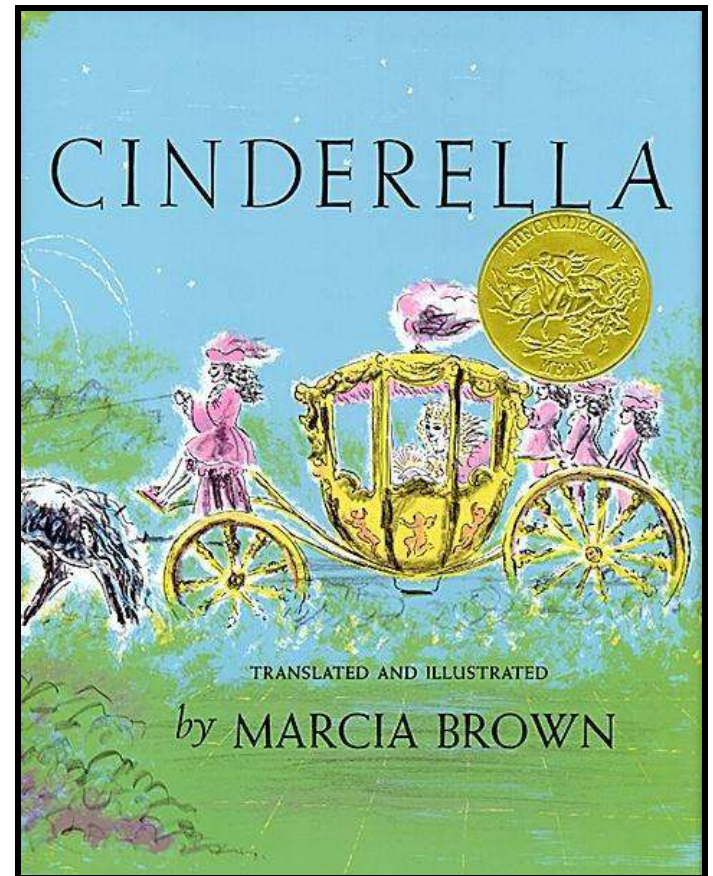


Folktale Diagram

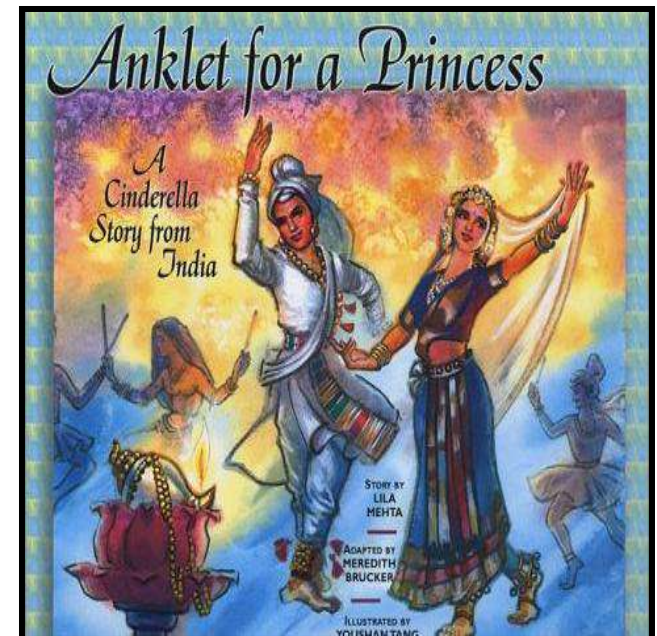
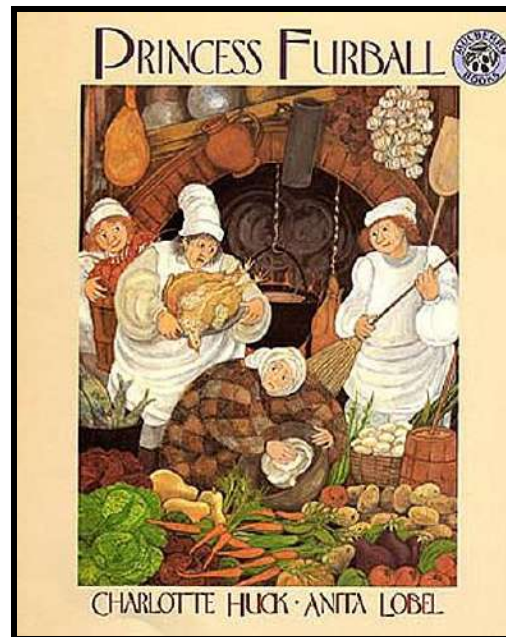
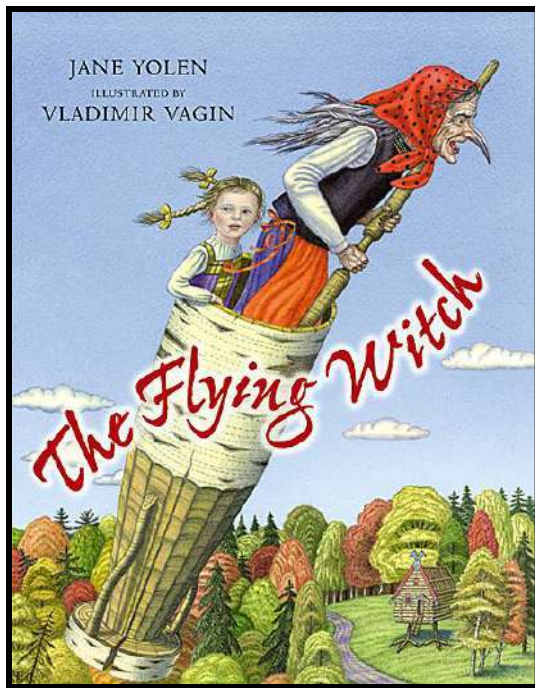


Fairy Tales

- Fairy tale is a type of folktale.
- Magic is important part.
- Magical creatures are characters: fairies, giants, elves, witches and ogres.
- Perform magical deeds of enchantment.
- Usually have “happily ever after” ending.

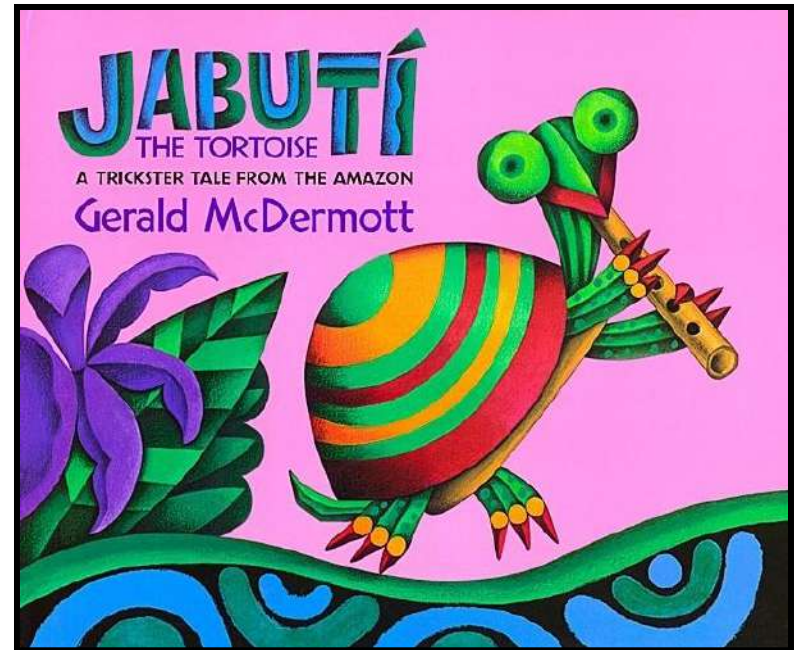


Other Fairy Tale Books

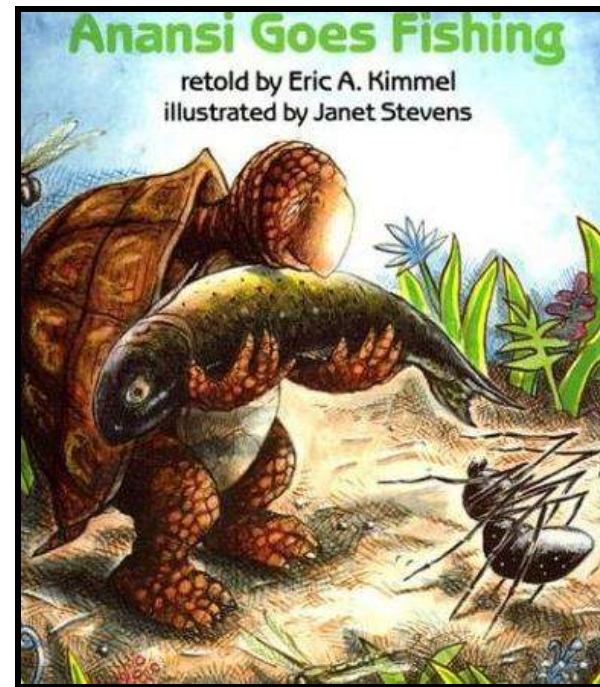
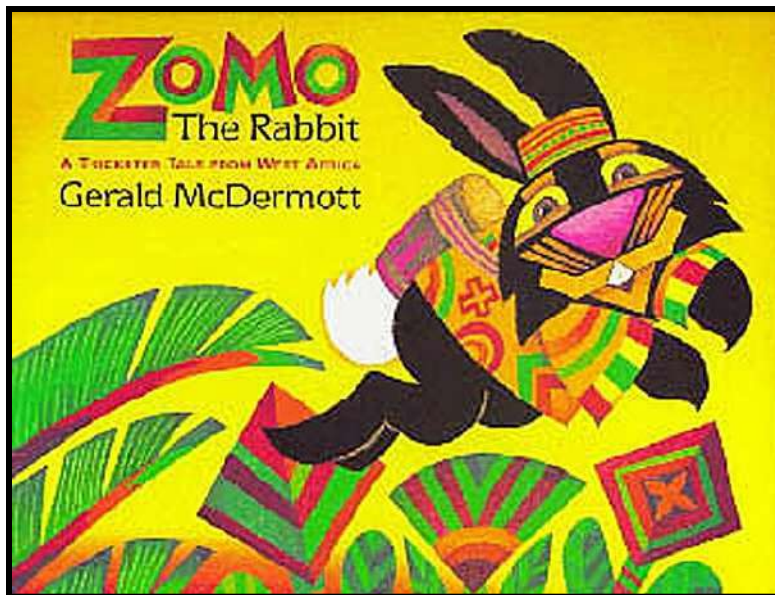


Trickster Tales

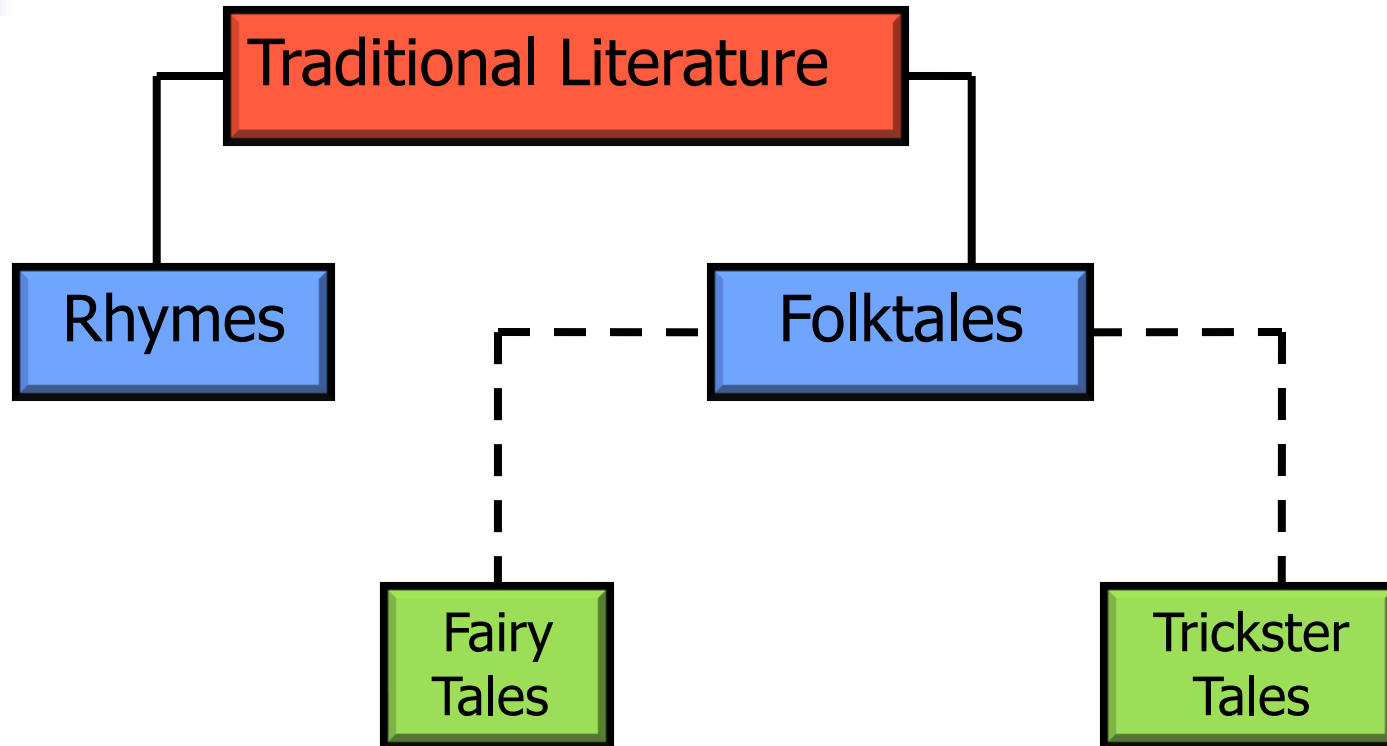
- Trickster tale is a type of folktale.
- Smaller or weaker character uses cunning to outwit stronger, more powerful character.
- Tricksters can be selfish or generous.
- Animal or human characters.



Other Trickster Tale Books



Traditional Literature Flowchart





Remember –

- **Traditional literature** includes rhymes and folktales that have been passed down through the years.
- No one knows who first told them.
- Used for education and entertainment.
- Show thoughts and beliefs of people who lived long ago.
- Traditional literature includes: **rhymes** and **folktales**.
- Folktales include: **fairy tales** and **trickster tales**.



Resources

- Huck, Charlotte. **Children's Literature in the Elementary School**. Fort Worth, Texas: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers, 1987.
- Sutherland, Zena. **Children and Books 8th ed**. NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 1991.
- ClipartHeaven.Com <http://clipartheaven.com/>
- Discoveryschool Clip Art Gallery <http://school.discovery.com/clipart/>
- Follett Library Resources <http://www.titlewave.com>
- Kidsdomain Clip Art <http://www.kidsdomain.com/clip/>
- Microsoft Office Clip Art <http://office.microsoft.com/clipart/>