

Humor Reading List



The Bully Goat Grim: A Maynard Moose Tale

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** Willy Claflin
ILLUSTRATOR: James Stimson

DESCRIPTION This hilarious Maynard Moose tale, as retold by master storyteller Willy Claflin, takes us on another whimsical journey with the misadventures of a Bully Goat who suffers from Random Hostility Syndrome. The Bully Goat clashes with a three headed troll “famby” and is undone by a baby girl troll when she suddenly realizes that “everybody ought to mess with him!” Her inspiration leads to a confrontation with the Bully Goat using only a pillow and three raggedy old bed sheets. After she cleverly outwits the Bully Goat, all of the forest animals follow her example and the threat of the bully is eliminated. Fortunately, everyone lives happily for “never afterwards” except for the Bully Goat, since nobody likes a “dubnoxious beastly”.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** 2nd-5th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** S / **LEXILE:** 970L

ISBN **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874839-52-4

The Clever Monkey: A Folktale from West Africa

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** Rob Cleveland
ILLUSTRATOR: Baird Hoffmire

DESCRIPTION When two greedy jungle cats discover a large piece of cheese, they can't decide how to divide it fairly. The clever monkey comes to their rescue. Or so they think. After reading this trickster tale from West Africa, you will think twice before asking a monkey for help.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** K-2nd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** G / **LEXILE:** 540L

ISBN **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874838-01-5

Conejito: A Folktale from Panama

**AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR**

AUTHOR: Margaret Read MacDonald
ILLUSTRATOR: Geraldo Valerio

DESCRIPTION

When Conejito begins his school holiday, he goes to visit his Tía Mónica—or is it the cakes and cookies he knows she will feed him when he arrives? But Conejito runs into a few obstacles on the way to his auntie's, including Señor Zorro, Señor Tigre, and Señor León. Conejito may want to eat Auntie Mónica's treats, but Mr. Fox, Mr. Tiger, and Mr. Lion want to eat him! With his own quick thinking and a little assist from Tía Mónica, Conejito outwits the bigger animals and makes his way safely home. This Latin American folktale from Panama highlight Rabbit's courage and resourcefulness to outwit Fox, Tiger, and Lion. It is also accompanied with a song that young readers will love. This folktale from Panama is a great way to introduce Spanish into your children's vocabulary! Award-winning author, Margaret Read MacDonald excels at producing a lyrical story that young readers are encouraged to participate in. In addition, Geraldo Valerio's vivid illustrations instill whimsy and fun with each turn of the page.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: K-2nd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** M / **LEXILE:** 460L

ISBNs

HARDCOVER: 978-0-874837-79-7 / **PAPERBACK:** 978-1-939160-96-6

The Exploding Toilet: Modern Urban Legends

**AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR**

AUTHOR: David Holt and Bill Mooney
ILLUSTRATOR: Kevin Pope

DESCRIPTION

Hey, did you hear about the guy who dropped a lit cigarette into the toilet without seeing the gasoline rags soaking in the bowl? Of course you did, it happened to your cousin's gym teacher. Or was it your gym teacher's cousin? Storytellers David Holt and Bill Mooney follow up their previous hit *Spiders in the Hairdo* with a whole new collection of modern urban legends. Here you'll find stupid criminals, government SNAFU's, scary stories, and a section featuring the Internet. These stories are too good not to pass on.... Once you start telling them, your friends will say you're on a roll! These prankster school stories will teach readers the importance of courage, resourcefulness and fairness.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: 6th-8th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** Z / **LEXILE:** 970L

ISBNs

PAPERBACK: 978-0-874837-15-5

Fat Cat: A Danish Folktale

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** Margaret Read MacDonald
ILLUSTRATOR: Julie Paschkis

DESCRIPTION Have you ever heard the saying, "Your eyes are bigger than your stomach?" Well, Cat's stomach is bigger than a lot of things. He is always hungry, and living with culinary-inclined Mouse, who makes thirty-five pies in one day, just makes it worse. Fat Cat swallows everything in sight, including the wash lady and her washtub, a troop of soldiers and their swords, even a king and his elephant! But when Cat swallows Mouse and her sewing basket, that's the last straw. Tiny Mouse cuts to the heart of the situation, taking an upside-down world and turning it right-side-up again. Greedy Cat learns his lesson and turns "fat" into "fancy," "fabulous," and "fantastic." Margaret Read MacDonald's infectious energy combines with Julie Paschkis' folk-inspired gouache paintings to create a new retelling of a favorite comic cumulative tale.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** K-2nd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** I / **LEXILE:** 330L

ISBNS **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874836-16-5 / **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874837-65-0

Forty Fun Fables: Tales to Trick, Tickle, and Teach

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss
ILLUSTRATOR: Baird Hoffmire

DESCRIPTION Animals don't talk but they appear in fables to tell us about our very human selves. This classic collection of whimsical stories is told simply with wit that appeals to children of all ages. Whimsical stories from this collection include Aesop Fables such as "The Sick Lion and the Sly Fox" and "The Rabbits and the Frog" along with unique adaptations of stories from a wide spread of cultures such as "The Fussy Mouse" and "How Momma Mouse Confused the Cat." At the end of each fable, the authors offer "The Moral of the Story" to help guide student interpretation. They also noted that their goals for the book were to make sure that the stories could be easily integrated into lesson plans by teachers, meanwhile simplifying the stories to make them fun for students to read aloud in class and to retell in their own words. In reading these tales, the lessons of many cultures are passed along and wisdom is shared. Young readers will be highly engaged and entertained by the fools, tricksters, and clever characters who appear in these timeless stories. These Aesop fables will also teach young readers the importance of citizenship, trustworthiness and caring.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** 2nd – 5th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** N / **LEXILE:** 550L

ISBNS **PAPERBACK:** 978-1-939160-77-5

Greek Myths, Western Style: Toga Tales with an Attitude

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** Barbara McBride-Smith
ILLUSTRATOR: Katrina Kelso

DESCRIPTION When she was a young girl, Barbara McBride-Smith was introduced to the ancient Greek myths, but she didn't quite hear them correctly. When her teacher told her they lived in the cradle of western civilization, young Barbara thought she said Western civilization—as in central Texas, around about Waco, where they seemed to fit right in. Ol' Man Zeus, after all, was a gun-totin' Big Daddy, sort of the J.R. Ewing of Mount Olympus. You know Aphrodite, the school basketball queen or Pandora the debutante, the best guitar picker around was Orpheus-Tom T., and wasn't Medusa the one who started the fashion trend known as Big Hair? With her incurable Texas drawl, feminist sympathies, and cheerleader's do-right attitude, master storyteller Barbara McBride-Smith spins the Greek myths as you've never heard them before.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** 6th – 8th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** Z / **LEXILE:** 810L

ISBNs **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874835-24-3 / **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874836-17-2

Juan Bobo Sends the Pig to Mass

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** Ari Acevedo
ILLUSTRATOR: Tom Wrenn

DESCRIPTION Juan Bobo, which translates to “Simple John”, is featured in a series of humorous folktales from Puerto Rico. The story is retold by Arí Acevedo-Feliciano. It is a classic tale about a mother and her foolish, young son who lacks common sense. One morning, Juan's mother asks her son to take care of their pig while she goes to church for mass. While she is gone, Juan hears the pig squealing and grunting, so he thinks that the pig is sad because she wanted to go to mass, too. In an attempt to be helpful, he dresses up the pig in his mother's clothes and jewelry, then he sends her off to mass. When Juan's mother returns from church, she is furious when she discovers the pig rolling in the mud with what is left of her dress. Still, Juan just doesn't understand why the pig never made it to mass. These Cuban folktales feature stories of pigs and fools. Readers will learn the importance of resourcefulness, responsibility and trustworthiness.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** K-2nd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** H / **LEXILE:** 610L

ISBNs **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874838-83-1

The Little Moose Who Couldn't Go to Sleep: A Maynard Moose Tale

**AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR**

AUTHOR: Willy Claflin
ILLUSTRATOR: James Stimson

DESCRIPTION

If you love Maynard Moose tales from the Northern Piney Woods, then be forewarned, this book might just be the funniest yet. The fourth installment in the Maynard Moose series provides the back story for the Maynard Moose tales. In this whimsical telling of how Little Moose struggles with going to sleep each night, you'll meet Little Moose, Maynard's youngest cousin and his favorite kin, her parents Mr. and Mrs. Moose, the sheep, and most, importantly, you'll learn the legend of Mother Moose and her kitchen. You'll also visit Moose Academy where young moose go to learn proper posture, woodland skills and counting to three over and over again. This whimsically illustrated story also includes a CD and a Moose to English dictionary.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: 3rd – 5th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** 0 / **LEXILE:** 720L

ISBNs

HARDCOVER: 978-1-939160-67-6

Noodlehead Stories: World Tales Kids Can Read and Tell

**AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR**

AUTHOR: Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss
ILLUSTRATOR: Ariane Elsammak

DESCRIPTION

Call it what you will: stories of the fool have been around as long as people have been telling stories. Everyone has a noodlehead day, when the brain takes a leave of absence. As the stories in this collection show, knuckleheads come in all forms and shapes. These stories bring to mind the wise words of the French humorist Francois Rebelais: "If you wish to avoid seeing a fool, you must first break your mirror." Following each story are tips for telling—especially written for children, but suitable for any age—that include suggestions for timing, intonation, gestures, and body language. There is also a map showing in what area of the world each story originated. Designed for use in primary and middle grades, this book is perfect for children to read on their own as well as those who want to learn to tell stories. It's also a wonderful resource for adults who tell stories to children, and for teachers to use in conjunction with language arts or social studies curricula. These foolish tales are hilarious and relatable. Furthermore, this collection teaches readers the importance of caring, citizenship and fairness.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: 3rd – 5th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** V / **LEXILE:** 830L

ISBNs

PAPERBACK: 978-0-874835-85-4 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874835-84-7

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AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss
ILLUSTRATOR: Ariane Elsammak

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READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** 3rd – 5th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** V / **LEXILE:** 830L

ISBNs **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874835-85-4 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874835-84-7

Rapunzel and the Seven Dwarfs: A Maynard Moose Tale

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** Willy Clafin
ILLUSTRATOR: James Stimson

DESCRIPTION "Once upon a time, a long, long time ago..." So begins this story of... Rapunzel?... and The Seven, or Eight, or NINE Dwarfs? Hey, what's going on here??? Welcome to the slightly off-track world of Maynard Moose and the ancient Mother Moose tales. This whimsical fractured fairytale will have young readers laughing out loud. Willy Clafin channels and translates these tales for our entertainment and enlightenment—or maybe just to confuse us. *Rapunzel and the Seven Dwarfs* exemplifies the lesson in many of these stories... "That there ain't no moral to some stories at all." This goofy take on a classic fairytale will teach readers the importance of courage, resourcefulness and responsibility.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** 2nd – 5th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** S / **LEXILE:** 910L

ISBNs **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874839-14-2

Sister Tricksters: Rollicking Tales of Clever Females

**AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR**

AUTHOR: Robert San Souci
ILLUSTRATOR: Daniel San Souci

DESCRIPTION

Everyone remembers the exploits of Br'er Rabbit and his cohorts Br'er Fox, Br'er Possum, and other sly characters. But while these tales were circulating among slaves in the southern United States, another set of stories was passed along just as enthusiastically, only here the clever tricksters were female. Who better to tackle the stories of these sister tricksters than the San Souci brothers? Utilizing a contagiously rhythmic, pitch-perfect dialect, writer Robert gleefully interprets the exploits of Molly Cottontail, Miz Grasshopper, Miz Duck, and Miz Goose against worthy (and not-so-worthy) foes such as Mistah Slickry Sly-fox, Mistah Rooster, and Mistah Bear. Brother Daniel's comically realistic paintings capture the slapstick frenzy of these characters engaged in battles of wits against the rural Southern landscape that nourished the tales in their infancy.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: 2nd – 5th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** S / **LEXILE:** 1050L

ISBN

HARDCOVER: 978-0-874837-91-9

Sitting Down to Eat

**AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR**

AUTHOR: Billy Harley
ILLUSTRATOR: Kitty Harvill

DESCRIPTION

A young boy's snack time is interrupted by a visit from an elephant. As soon as he moves over to make room, they are joined by a tiger ... and a hippo ... and a big blue whale ... and soon a full menagerie, each insisting there's room for one more. With his trademark marriage of story and song, children's entertainer Bill Harley tests the boundaries of his young hero's patience—and hospitality. Young readers will delight in counting candles on the birthday cake that is among the many favorite foods to be found in Kitty Harvill's vibrant, kinetic cut-paper collages, which capture the energy and rhythm of Harley's cumulative tale. This vibrant animal story will teach readers the importance of sharing.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: PreK – 3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** H / **LEXILE:** N/A

ISBN

PAPERBACK: 978-0-874836-03-5 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874834-60-4

Tales of Nonsense and Tomfoolery

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** Pleasant DeSpain
ILLUSTRATOR: Don Bell

DESCRIPTION Every culture known to humankind has its fools, those well-meaning (yet bungling) folks who always manage to do the wrong thing, even though their hearts are in the right place. From stories of the fool, we learn how to avoid becoming one ourselves—as well as how to laugh at ourselves when the inevitable happens and we do something silly. The ten stories collected here deal with fools from around the world, including: "The Silly Farmer" from Ethiopia, "The Extraordinary Cat" from China, "The Bear Who Said North" from Finland, and "The Proud Fox" from the United States. Pleasant DeSpain is the author of numerous collections of multicultural stories, including the highly regarded *Thirty-Three Multicultural Tales to Tell*, *Sweet Land of Story*, and *The Emerald Lizard*. He has traveled all over the United States and the world, collecting stories to share with children and adults.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** 3rd – 5th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** O / **LEXILE:** 830L

ISBNs **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874836-45-5 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874836-70-7

Trickster Tales: Forty Folk Stories from Around the World

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** Josepha Sherman
ILLUSTRATOR: David Boston

DESCRIPTION People of all ages love to watch the escapades of tricksters. In modern times, we watch Bugs Bunny, Road Runner and Wile E. Coyote, even Ace Ventura and Bart Simpson. But these contemporary characters have roots in antiquity. The trickster is a universal archetype, found in every culture: Anansi among the African people, Coyote in the American Southwest, Raven in the Pacific Northwest, Rabbit in the American South, the leprechaun in Ireland, and Fox in South America. Josepha Sherman has collected forty stories of tricksters from around the globe. Sometimes human, sometimes animal, most often male (but occasionally a female, as Sherman demonstrates), the trickster is like a force of nature, an Id unchecked by Superego. He is the sort of being who says, while acting on impulse, "What happens if I do *this*? What will happen next?" These stories come from forty world cultures, including ancient Babylonia, Botswana, and China. This multicultural collection will teach readers the importance of caring, fairness and resourcefulness.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** 3rd – 4th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** O / **LEXILE:** N/A

ISBNs **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874834-50-5

The Uglified Ducky: A Maynard Moose Tale

**AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR**

AUTHOR: Willy Claflin
ILLUSTRATOR: James Stimson

DESCRIPTION

You may think you know the classic story of the Ugly Duckling, but think again. In the capable hands of his alter ego Maynard Moose, renowned storyteller Willy Claflin takes us on a wacky journey where this Uglified Ducky, a hapless young moose, "blunders away" from his home, is mistaken for a baby duck, and endures endless humiliation as he tries to learn to waddle, quack, swim, and fly. Eventually, he finds his true "famby," who helps him discover his own beauty. In his fractured "Moose" English, translated in the glossary at front, Maynard relays a surprisingly tender story that echoes the original tale's theme of the struggle to belong and discover your true self. The Uglified Ducky's quest is playfully but sympathetically interpreted in James Stimson's luminous, droll gouache illustrations.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: 2nd – 5th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** S / **LEXILE:** 830L

ISBNs

HARDCOVER: 978-0-874838-58-9 / **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874839-53-1