

# Fairy Tales, Fables and Myths

## A Folklore Pathfinder

By Carol Phaling

### *The Fairy Call*

*A spell for summoning the fairies*

*Sit where the cat sits.*

*Cross your toes.*

*Close your eyes.*

*And smell a rose.*

*Then say under your breath:*

*"I believe in fairies, sure as death."*

*Gadflykins! Gladtrypins!*

*Gutterpuss and Cass!*

*Come to me fairily*

*Each lad and lass!*

*From "Lady Cottington's Pressed Fairy Book"*

"Folklore refers to the beliefs, manners, customs, observations, superstitions, tales, ballads, proverbs, music, and art of an earlier time. Folk literature refers to stories with uncertain origins that were handed down orally from one storyteller to another." Folklore is comprised of animal tales, fables, folktales, humorous tales, legends, myths, tall tales, and traditional fairy tales (Van Orden p. 101). This pathfinder focuses primarily on:

1. Fairy Tales - imaginary tales that involve enchantment, supernatural elements, or magical powers,
2. Fables - a story in which an animal or inanimate object tries to teach a lesson, and
3. Myths - stories told as if they are fact and usually involve gods, goddesses, and supernatural powers. (Van Orden p.104, 105, &106).

Teachers and librarians who are teaching Folklore can use this pathfinder to find an abundant amount of Folk literature online. The majority of the websites listed here consist of literature, although a few are lesson plans, and one is specifically a resource for teachers and librarians. One site is a folklore encyclopedia that students studying Folklore may find useful. Also, there are several versions of some of the more popular Fairy Tales, Cinderella for example, and a teacher or librarian will find many of these types of stories by referring to these sites. Most of the sites are appropriate for upper elementary students through adults.

## **FAIRY TALES & FABLES**

### SurLaLune Fairy Tale Pages

<http://members.aol.com/surlalune/frytales/index.htm>

An entry into fairy tale and folklore that includes annotated fairy tales. There are also links that include the tales, their histories, and similar tales from other cultures, bibliographies, and recommended reading links. The "Introduction Main Page" contains essays, FAQ's and a short story about Fairy Tales.

### The Children's Literature Nook Presents Fairy Tales on the Web

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Estates/4967/fairytales.html>

This Web page contains many links to popular Fairy Tales such as Snow White and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Some of the links do not work, but the ones that do are good. There are classroom resources as well as a Fairy Tales bibliography.

### Whootie Owl's Fairytales! "Because Storytelling Matters" - Stories and Play Scripts with Positive Messages for Kids!

<http://www.storiestogrowby.com>

Cute website that is appropriate and fun for kids. There are activities to do and also teaching materials and materials to purchase. It focuses on storytelling and plays,

### Fairy Tales from the Brothers Grimm

<Gopher://ftp.std.com/11/obi/book/Fairy.Tales/Grimm>

This is an assortment of Grimm's Fairytales in plain text format - Useful to anyone interested in reading fairy tales.

### Hans Christian Andersen Fairy Tales and Stories

<http://HCA.Gilead.org.il/>

This web page has links to the complete translated stories (by H.P. Paull -1872) and includes links to many other Anderson sites (a webography). This is a nicely organized and useful site for H.C.A. fans.

### University of Maryland – Fairy Tales

<http://www.inform.umd.edu/EdRes/ReadingRoom/Fiction/FairyTales/>

This is a large collection of Fairy Tales from an assortment of authors.

### Andrew Lang's Fairy Books

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/subjects/Young-Readers.html>

This is a web site that contains four of Lang's classic works. On the "Young Readers" page find, "Lang, Andrew" alphabetically to reach his books.

Full texts of Red Fairy Book, 1890, The Violet Fairy Book, 1901, Blue Fairy Book, 1889, and Yellow Fairy Book, 1894 are available, provided by The University of Virginia.

### Tale of Wonder - Folk and Fairy Tales from Around the World

<http://members.nbc.com/darsie/tales/>

This is a complete collection of international folk and fairy tales. Tales from Africa, India, Russia, Ireland, Scandinavia, Japan, Scotland, the Middle East, Siberia, Central Asia, Central Europe, England, Native America, and China are included. This site also includes links to other folktale sites.

### **CINDERELLA**

#### The Children's Literature Web Guide's – Cinderella Stories

<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/cinderella.html>

This is a site that contains links to various versions of the Cinderella Story. It also contains an extensive bibliography of Cinderella variations and some teaching ideas.

#### The Cinderella Project -University of Southern Mississippi

<http://www-dept.usm.edu/~engdept/cinderella/cinderella.html>

This website includes text and images of a dozen English versions of the Cinderella fairy tale. These common Cinderella Stories represent varieties of the tale from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries.

### **MYTHOLOGY**

#### The Children's Literature Nook Presents Mythology on the Web

<http://members.tripod.com/~JeanneAnn/mythology.html>

Links to mythology – includes links for General Mythology, Folk & Fairy Tales from around the world, Greek Mythology, Mythology in Western Art, Roman Mythology, Norse Mythology, Viking Links, and Egyptian Mythology. There are many types of myths and most of them can be classified as nature myths, semi-historical myths, myths of explanation, creation myths, or myths about the world of the dead. This Web site provides links to the various types of Myths.

#### Folklore and Mythology Electronic Texts

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/folktexts.html>

This web site contains multiple versions of well-known tales, which are useful for compare and contrast lessons.

#### Schoolwork.ugh! - Myths, Legends, and Tall-Tales

<http://www.schoolwork.org/myth.html>

Includes: General Resources, Celtic, Gaelic, British Egyptian, Greek, Norse, and Roman Links.

#### Encyclopedia Mythica

<http://pantheon.org/mythica/areas/>

The information available to browse here includes lists of over 5700 articles, 300 illustrations, maps, genealogy tables, and much more.

## **TEACHER/LIBRARIAN RESOURCES**

Fairy Tale Resource Page For Teachers And Librarians

<http://www.lmu.edu/webpro/germany/title.htm>

Teachers and librarians who work with children from kindergarten through sixth grade will find this a good resource. Most of the sites listed here are not intended for children but to help librarians and teachers become familiar with Fairy Tales. Reference sources through actual text may be accessed.

Sources for the Analysis and Interpretation of Folk and Fairy Tales

<http://shoga.wva.com/~callison/>

This is a bibliography with links for serious students of folk and fairy tales. It is a good site for librarians – the sources deal with the analysis of fairy or folk tales. Links to other Folklore sites are also included.

## **LESSON PLANS**

The Lesson Plan Page

Multicultural Fairy Tales by D. Van Zee

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/LAMultiFairy.htm>

This is a compare and contrast lesson plan for students in 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

AskERIC Lesson Plans: *Go to askERIC site and search for the following 3 lesson plans by title.*

<http://askeric.org/>

1. Fairy Tale Journey – Grades 3-4

Submitted by: Jacqueline C. Miller, Teacher - School: Churchland Academy Elementary, Portsmouth, VA.

Description: In this creative writing process, the student will assume the role of the main character in the fairy tale. The student will use fantasy to change the ending of a familiar fairy tale.

2. Folktales and Legends Are Part of the Heritage of Indians (Unit 1 grade 3)

Objectives: The student will be able to: 1. Select and read one or more Indian folktales or myths. 2. Choose one folktale or legend and retell it to classmates.

3. Complete the "Fact/Fiction Sheet" on the folktale chosen for retelling. 4.

Understand that Indian folktales and legends explain a fact of nature or sometimes provide the background for an historical event. 5. Write and illustrate an original legend with a partner and present it to the class.

3. Folktales – Grade Levels 3-5 (Lesson Plan #AELP-WCP0057)

Submitted by: Jennifer Moldenhauer, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Description: A Social Studies lesson on modes of transportation in Finland and how they differ from modes of transportation in the United States.

### **References**

Van Orden, Phyllis, Selecting Books for the Elementary School Library Media Center, Schuman Publishers, Inc., New York, 2000 (pp. 101-105)