

## Folktales and Fairy Tales

A **folktale** is an anonymous story passed on through generations by word of mouth. Folktales are often timeless and placeless, with formulaic openings like: 'Once upon a time, in a faraway kingdom, there lived an old man and an old woman in a small cottage in the forest...' Folktales were told as a form of entertainment.

'Folktale' is a general term that can include a wide range of traditional narratives, such as myths, legends, fables and fairy tales.

A **fairy tale** is a traditional folktale involving imaginary creatures such as fairies, wizards, elves, trolls, gnomes, goblins and fire-breathing dragons.



Useful websites:

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/>

An Internet project on myths, folktales and fairy tales with contributions from various authors designed to help students learn about and write in these genres

<http://www.topics-mag.com/folk-tales/page.htm>

A collection of folktales from around the world written for English Language Learners for Topics Online Magazine

<http://www.culturalindia.net/indian-folktales/index.html>

A collection of Indian folktales in English

<http://library.thinkquest.org/03oct/01397/folkt.htm>

A selection of Chinese folktales (bi-lingual English and Chinese)

<http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/Collections/ClasFair.shtml>

A selection of fairy tales from Hans Christian Andersen and the Brothers Grimm (original versions)

For exploring folktales, fairy tales and other stories through drama, the following resources may be useful:

*NETworking: Using Drama in the English Classroom*, Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Section, CDI, EDB, HKSAR, 2008.

*Learning and Teaching through Drama DVD*, Native-speaking English Teacher (NET) Section, CDI, EDB, HKSAR, 2008.