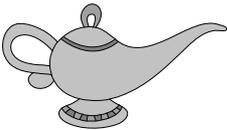
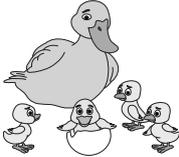


## The Early Literary Tradition

Below are some of the earliest stories from the oral tradition to be preserved in writing as part of the literary tradition in English.

	Title, author and origin	Examples of well-known fables or tales
1.	<p><b>Aesop's Fables</b>, approx. 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC, Greece</p> <p>Aesop is said to have been a slave in Ancient Greece who became very famous for his skill as a storyteller.</p> <p>All his stories are fables with a <i>moral</i>, or a lesson about how to live a good life.</p>	<p>The Ants and the Grasshopper</p> <p>The Boy who Cried Wolf</p> <p>The Fox and the Grapes</p> <p>The Lion and the Mouse</p> <p>The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse</p>
2.	<p><b>One Thousand and One Nights</b>, 10<sup>th</sup> Century, Persia</p> <p>The 'framing story' is about a Persian king who executes his wife because she is unfaithful. He then marries one young maiden after another, executing each one the morning after the wedding. This continues for three years, until there are no more young maidens to be found.</p> <p>At this point, Scheherazade, the king's daughter, offers herself as the next bride. On the night of the wedding, she tells the king the beginning of a tale, but she does not tell him the ending. The king postpones her execution because he is so interested in hearing how the tale ends. The following night she finishes the tale, but then begins a new one. Again she does not tell him the ending. This goes on for 1001 nights.</p> <p><i>One Thousand and One Nights</i> is also known as <i>Tales from the Arabian Nights</i>.</p>	<p>'Aladdin and his Lamp' is the story of a boy named Aladdin, who finds a magic lamp. When he rubs the lamp a genie comes out and grants him three wishes.</p> <p>'The Voyages of Sinbad' is a series of adventure tales about Sinbad the Sailor, who sails the seas seven times and visits many magical and mysterious lands.</p> <p>'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves' is about Ali Baba, a young man who is cast out of the family by his older brother and not given his inheritance. He comes across forty thieves in the forest and discovers the hiding place of their secret treasure.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
3.	<p><b>The Canterbury Tales</b> (1387-1400), Geoffrey Chaucer, England</p> <p>The 'framing story' is about a pilgrimage from London to Canterbury. The pilgrims come from all walks of life. They decide to tell stories to each other along the way. The person who tells the best story gets a free dinner. The host of the pilgrimage is the judge of the competition.</p>	<p>'The Knight's Tale' is a romantic tale about love and honour.</p> <p>'The Pardoner's Tale' is a folk tale about three drunken men who leave the pub to find and kill Death.</p> <p>'The Nun's Priest's Tale' is a fable about a very proud rooster named Chanticleer who dreams he will be eaten by a fox.</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>

	Title, author and origin	Examples of well-known fables or tales
4.	<p><b><i>The Death of Arthur</i></b> (1485), Thomas Malory, England</p> <p><i>The Death of Arthur (Le Morte d' Arthur)</i> is an early collection of tales about the legend of King Arthur.</p> 	<p><i>Book I</i> details the birth of King Arthur and his rise to power.</p> <p><i>Book III</i> is the tale of Sir Lancelot.</p> <p><i>Book VI</i> recounts the Quest for the Holy Grail.</p> <p><i>Book VII</i> is about the relationship between Sir Lancelot and Queen Guinevere.</p> <p><i>Book VIII</i> deals with the breaking up of the Knights of the Round Table and the death of King Arthur.</p>
5.	<p><b><i>Tales and Stories of the Past with Morals</i></b> (1697), Charles Perrault, France</p> <p>Perrault started a new literary genre, the 'fairy tale', with his <i>Tales and Stories of the Past with Morals (Histoires ou Contes du Temps Passé)</i>, subtitled <i>Tales of Mother Goose (Les Contes de ma Mère l'Oie)</i>. He wrote them in the style of tales from the oral tradition of storytelling.</p>	<p>Little Red Riding Hood</p> <p>Sleeping Beauty</p> <p>Puss in Boots</p> <p>Cinderella</p> <p>Little Thumb (Tom Thumb)</p> 
6.	<p><b><i>Tales from Shakespeare</i></b> (1807), Charles and Mary Lamb, England</p> <p>Charles and Mary Lamb re-wrote twenty of the tales from Shakespeare's plays as children's stories. Shakespeare borrowed heavily from the oral tradition when he composed his plays.</p>	<p>The Tempest</p> <p>A Midsummer Night's Dream</p> <p>Macbeth</p> <p>Romeo and Juliet</p> <p>Hamlet</p> 
7.	<p><b><i>Grimm's Fairy Tales</i></b> (1812-1822), The Brothers Grimm, Germany</p> <p><i>Children and Household Tales (Kinder- und Hausmärchen)</i> was a collection of German fairy tales for children compiled by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. Today the collection is commonly known as <i>Grimm's Fairy Tales (Grimm's Märchen)</i>.</p>	<p>Rapunzel</p> <p>Hansel and Gretel</p> <p>The Fisherman and his Wife</p> <p>Snow White</p> <p>Rumpelstiltskin</p> 
8.	<p><b><i>Fairy Tales</i></b> (1835-1837), Hans Christian Andersen, Denmark</p> <p>Like Perrault, Andersen used the motifs in traditional fairy tales and created his own tales. He helped make the fairy tale more popular as a literary genre.</p>	<p>The Emperor's New Clothes</p> <p>The Little Match Girl</p> <p>The Little Mermaid</p> <p>The Nightingale</p> <p>The Ugly Duckling</p> 

	Title, author and origin	Examples of well-known fables or tales
9.	<p><b><i>The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood</i></b> (1883), Howard Pyle, United States</p> <p>Pyle adapted the traditional English ballads (narrative poems) about Robin Hood into children's stories, which he compiled into a novel.</p> <p>Francis James Child also helped popularise the Robin Hood legend in his <b><i>Popular English and Scottish Ballads</i></b> (1882-1898), which later became known as <b><i>Child Ballads</i></b>.</p> 	<p>The <i>Prologue</i> tells of Robin Hood's adventure with the king's foresters and how he gathered his band of merry men and met his right-hand man, Little John.</p> <p>In <i>Part First</i>, Robin Hood beats the Sheriff of Nottingham in a shooting match.</p> <p>In <i>Part Third</i>, Robin Hood has three merry adventures and finds three good merry men to join his band.</p> <p>In <i>Part Sixth</i>, Robin Hood becomes a beggar, Little John becomes a wandering Friar, and both go out to seek adventures.</p> <p>In <i>Part Eighth</i>, Robin Hood has a fight with Guy of Gisbourne, Little John saves three men and falls into the hands of the sheriff, and King Richard the Lion-hearted visits Robin Hood in Sherwood Forest.</p>
10.	<p><b><i>Andrew Lang's Fairy Books</i></b> (1889-1910), Andrew Lang, Scotland</p> <p>Lang collected fairy tales from many sources and published them in 12 colour-coded volumes. The series was very influential in making fairy tales more popular and accessible to children.</p>	<p>The Bronze Ring</p> <p>Beauty and the Beast</p> <p>The Story of Pretty Goldilocks</p> <p>Little Thumb</p> <p>The History of Jack the Giant Killer</p> 

These stories are available in illustrated children's books and in simplified readers (e.g. Macmillan Readers, Oxford Bookworms Library, Penguin Longman Readers).