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## Folklore

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### K-2

Cousins, Lucy. *Yummy: Eight Favorite Fairy Tales*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2009. Using the bright and bold style of the illustrations in her Maisy picture books, Cousins presents eight familiar tales: “Little Red Riding Hood,” “The Three Billy Goats Gruff,” “The Enormous Turnip,” “Henny Penny,” “Goldilocks and the Three Bears,” “The Little Red Hen,” “The Three Little Pigs,” and “The Musicians of Bremen.” The retellings follow the traditional versions of the tales—for example, the wolf is beheaded in one tale and boils to death in another.

Pinkney, Jerry. *The Lion and the Mouse*. New York: Little, Brown & Co. Books for Young Readers, 2009. In this nearly wordless retelling of a well-known Aesop fable, an adventuresome mouse proves that even small creatures are capable of great deeds when he rescues the King of the Jungle. Pinkney’s award-winning illustrations (2010 Caldecott Winner) set the story in Africa’s Serengeti.

### 3-4

Gaiman, Neil. *Odd and the Frost Giants*. New York: Harper, 2009. Twelve-year-old Odd has run away from his dreary Viking village that seems to be trapped in an endless winter. He meets three talking animals—a bear, an eagle, and a fox—who are actually the Norse gods Loki, Thor, and Odin. The group travels to the land of the gods in an attempt to outwit evil Frost Giants. If Odd’s plan works, he will free the gods from their animal shapes and bring spring to his village.

Kajikawa, Kimiko. *Tsunami!*. New York: Philomel Books, 2009. Following a mild earthquake, the sea withdraws and villagers run out to explore. But Japanese rice farmer Ojiisan remembers his grandfather’s tsunami tales. Desperate to save everyone, he sets fire to his fields. When the villagers rush to his aid, they escape the monster wave. Kajikawa’s simple adaptation of an 1897 story is illustrated by Ed Young.

### 5-6

Lin, Grace. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*. New York: Little, Brown & Co. Books for Young Readers, 2009. Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish and embarks on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing better fortune for her parents. Along the way she makes new friends including a dragon who cannot fly (reminiscent of *The Wizard of Oz*). The main story line is interspersed with tales from traditional Chinese folklore. Full-page illustrations show influences of traditional Chinese art. (2010 Newbery Honor Winner)

Rylant, Cynthia. *The Beautiful Stories of Life: Six Greek Myths, Retold*. New York: Harcourt, 2009. Six stories from Greek mythology—Pandora, Persephone, Orpheus, Pygmalion, Narcissus, and Psyche—are retold in a modern style with an old-fashioned feel. The straightforward retellings of these classic myths make them more accessible to younger readers. Good introduction to Greek mythology.