

## Folklore

### K-2

Burkert, Rand. *Mouse & Lion*. New York: Michael Di Capua Books/Scholastic, 2011. ISBN: 978-0545101479. In this beautiful retelling of Aesop's fable, the mouse (who is after all the hero of the tale) receives star billing. Illustrator Nancy Ekholm Burkert, the author's mother, has created magnificent artwork that simultaneously celebrates nature's grandest and smallest wonders.

Macdonald, Margaret Read. *The Boy From the Dragon Palace: a Folktale From Japan*. Chicago: Albert Whitman, 2011. ISBN: 978-0807575130. The Dragon King from under the sea gifts an impoverished flower seller with a messy, snot-nosed boy. The boy turns out to be more than he seems, for when he sneezes money, food, and even a palace materialize before the man's eyes!

### 3-4

Andrews, Jan. *When Apples Grew Noses and White Horses Flew: Tales of Ti-Jean*. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2011. ISBN: 978-0888999528. In these three appealing tales we are introduced to Ti-Jean, a staple character of French Canadian folklore who is by turns naïve, clever, honest, duplicitous, foolish and wise. In all three stories Ti-Jean gets himself into trouble and must use both wits and magic to prevail.

Husain, Shahrukh. *The Wise Fool: Fables From the Islamic World*. Cambridge, Mass.: Barefoot Books, 2011. ISBN: 978-1846862267. In short one or two page spreads, this lighthearted book presents vignettes of Mulla Nasruddin, the "wise fool" of the title. Mulla's stories are always told with humor, which masks the underlying social commentary.

### 5-6

Gavin, Jamila. *Tales From India*. Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0763655648. This beautifully illustrated volume narrates the story of the Hindu pantheon of gods and goddesses. This is a wonderful introduction to a religious tradition that may be unfamiliar to many readers and interestingly has many parallels with Western religious allegories.

Ursu, Anne. *Breadcrumbs*. New York: Walden Pond Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0062015051. Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's *The Snow Queen*, this story follows fifth-grader Hazel, who is struggling to fit into a new school. When her best friend Jack is abducted by a mysterious stranger Hazel finds reserves of strength she never knew she had in venturing into the woods to save him.