

Myths, Legends and Classic Tales

Under 5 years

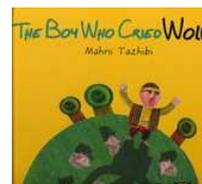
The Boy Who Cried Wolf

Mahni Tazhibi

Translated from Persian by Azita Rassi

Tiny Owl Publications (2015)

This classic is a familiar Aesop's Fable, although its origins go back much further and versions of it can be found in all cultures throughout the world. It playfully explores the temptation in all of us to exaggerate and the message is always the same: nobody believes someone who repeatedly says something that is untrue. Iranian author and illustrator Mahni Tazhibi has produced unusual watercolour illustrations have a crayon-like quality with a perspective that shifts as the story unfolds.



'Sleep Well' Siba and Saba

Nansubuga Nagadya Isdahl, illustrated by Sandra van Doorn

Lantana Publishing (2017)

Sisters Siba and Saba are always losing things. When the two sisters fall asleep each night, they dream about finding all the things they have lost during the day. Until, one night, their dreams begin to reveal something entirely unexpected. Set in Uganda, this charming story by Nansubuga Nagadya Isdahl has a gentle poetic narrative that ebbs and flows from page to page and gorgeous expressive artwork by French illustrator Sandra van Doorn.



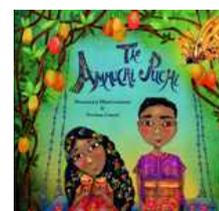
6-8 years

The Ammuchi Puchi

Sharanya Manivannan, illustrated by Nerina Canzi

Lantana Publishing (2016)

An unusual poignant story that deals with the loss of a loved one and the slow process of coming to terms with it by Indian author Sharanya Manivannan. The poetic prose and colourful characters are combined with the stunning illustrations by Argentinian illustrator Nerina Canzi.



Bijan and Manije

Ali Seidabadi, illustrated by Marjan Vafaian

Translated from Persian by Azita Rassi

Tiny Owl Publications (2016)

Bijan and Manije is an ancient epic story from Persia. With echoes of *Romeo and Juliet*, this is a story of love across the divide, but with a distinctive Persian flavour. Retold and carefully updated for a younger audience by Ali Seidabadi, translated by Azita Rassi and edited by Nicolette Jones with exquisite illustrations by Marjan Vafaian.



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Chicken in the Kitchen

Nnedi Okorafor, illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini
Lantana Publishing (2015)

When a sudden noise wakes Anyaugo in the middle of the night she goes to investigate. There in the kitchen is a giant chicken intent on spoiling all the food her mother and aunties have prepared for the New Yam Festival marking the beginning of the harvest season. A captivating and contemporary story by Nigerian author Nnedi Okorafor with the masquerade culture of West Africa and their traditions.



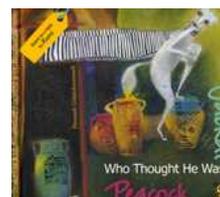
The Jackal Who Thought He Was a Peacock

Rumi

Retold by Fereshteh Sarlak, illustrated by Firoozeh Golmohammadi

Tiny Owl Publishing (2016)

Based on a traditional fable by Rumi, a 13th century Persian mystic and poet, this retelling of the story by Fereshteh Sarlak. We follow our jackal in his desperate quest to be a peacock. He tries to disguise himself in the beautiful colours he associates with the vibrancy of the peacock. With beautiful, evocative illustrations by Firoozeh Golmohammadi.



The Jasmine Sneeze

Nadine Kaadan

Lantana Publishing (2016)

'Haroun is the happiest cat in the world'. He lives in the city of Damascus, 'the city of a million and one cats'. But there is just one problem: the sweet scented Jasmine flowers make him sneeze. Haroun believes he has come up with the perfect solution, but doesn't anticipate the anger of the Jasmine spirit, who it is said, has lived in the jasmine trees of Damascus for thousands of years. Syrian author and illustrator Nadine Kaadan has woven an entertaining tale about the lovable Haroun based around the City of Jasmine (Damascus) where the flower is the symbolic flower of Damascus.



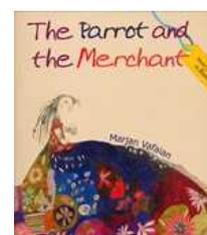
The Parrot and the Merchant

Rumi, illustrated by Marjan Vafaian

Translated from Persian by Azita Rassi

Tiny Owl Publications (2015)

Ma Jahan travels far and wide buying and selling beautiful things. On her journeys she collects exquisite colourful birds which she keeps in cages or chains so that they don't leave her. Ma Jahan loves all her birds, but her favourite, and the one she loves the most because it can talk, is a magnificent parrot from India. This poignant story is based on the fable by Rumi.



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Phoenix Song

Tutu Dutta, illustrated by Martina Peluso
Lantana Publishing (2015)

Arohan dreams of having a guitar so when his grandmother gives him a plain old bamboo flute for his eight birthday he is disappointed but this is no ordinary flute: it's called a xiao and Arohan learns of

Cendrawasih, an ancient Chinese/Malay legend and of the phoenix who represents spring and the renewal of life. When Arohan's brothers go missing he knows he must summon up his courage and find a way to placate the Guardian of the Forest in order to find them again.



Tan Hou and the Double Sixth Festival

Wu Chaozhu and Xiang Hua
Adapted and translated by Helen Wang
Illustrated by Cai Gao
Balestier Press (2017)

This is the legend behind the annual day of celebration of the Double Sixth Festival among the Tujia people of China. The original text by Wu Chaozhu and Xiang Hua has been adeptly adapted and translated from Chinese by award-winning translator Helen Wang. Cai Gao, who in 2000 was named as China's most outstanding artist, has provided atmospheric, colourful and expressive watercolour artwork.



The Wooden Camel

Wanuri Kahiu, illustrated by Manuela Adreani
Lantana Publishing (2017)

Etabo dreams of racing camels. One day he may even be able to beat his older brother Lopeyok when they race. With the price of water rising, Etabo's father has to sell the camels, and his siblings must find work. What can Etabo do to keep his dream alive? Set against a backdrop of north-west Kenya, acclaimed Kenyan filmmaker Wanuri Kahiu has written a story that combines the nomadic life of the Turkana tribe with the importance of keeping one's dreams alive.

Poetry

All the Wild Wonders: Poems of the Earth

Edited by Wendy Cooling, illustrated by Piet Grobler
Frances Lincoln Children's Books (2017)

This beautiful anthology, first published in 2010, has been re-issued in paperback. It includes 35 poems from around the world that celebrates nature and the planet. Distinguished anthologist Wendy Cooling has chosen poems that will make children think about the planet, the damage being done to it and the desperate need to preserve our world. A thought-provoking book with colourful illustrations by award-winning illustrator Piet Grobler.

