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 that 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.
**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.
**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.

**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.