

## **PINCHING THE GIANTS\*\*\*\*\*Tricksters of the World**

Trickster's are as common to the folklore of cultures as spices are to their diets. As with food, you'll discover that the staples are similar, and it is often the seasoning that makes the specific offering unique. Tricksters are almost always small, overtly powerless animals or people, who use their wits, guile, and instincts to survive and thrive in a world where they are surrounded by the strong and powerful. The trickster is the master of manipulation, using flattery, promises of wealth and fame, and an exaggerated sense of their own fear and weakness to obtain a desired outcome. The trickster wins food, fortune, and sometimes even immortality, and we always smile. We smile, especially if we are children because the trickster represents our own unbridled desires. Though beauty, strength or wealth might not be in your providence, a strong set of wits can be developed and used by anyone. We can all be the trickster. What better character for a child to relate to? The trickster is often amoral. He/she survives at almost any cost. If you look closely though, the truly good are not the ones sacrificed or used by the trickster. The power hungry, the vain, the fools who should know better are his/her patsy's, and in this an additional lesson is learned. Children emerge from these stories with a new sense of their own potential and possibly even a healthier vantage point from which to view those in power, the vain, and the terminally foolish.

These tales from Ireland, England, Central Europe, The Near East, The Far East, Africa, The Caribbean and the America's, reflects the common thread that all cultures share.

### **Tales From Knockmany:**

With wit and finesse Fin M'Coul sweet wife Oonogh saves him from the biggest and meanest of old Ireland's giants. 15 minutes ages 7-11

### **Molly Whoopie:**

Maybe you've heard of Jack and the Beanstalk? Molly, with a bit more chutzpah and courage could be his twin sister! 20 minutes ages 4-9

### **Spider Feeds his Family**

This Nigerian tale introduces you to the cleverness of Anansi the spider and how larger, less quick witted animals are his 'mark. 15 minutes ages 4-9

### **A Story A Story**

This fine old tale explains, via Papa Anansi, how stories came to be on this earth. 20 minutes ages 4-9

### **Being Greedy Choke Anansi**

This very funny Jamaican tale explores what happen when the trickster gets a bit too greedy. 5 minutes ages 5-12

### **Tales of Rabbit**

Rabbit is one of the great tricksters of the world. He immigrated from Africa, lived in the

Caribbean and was taken, with the slave trade, to America where he turned into Brer Rabbit. Here he met a distant cousin who appears in many Native American tales. You might of heard of his great great grandson, his name is Bugs Bunny!  
Numerous tales 5-15 minutes ages 5-12

**Dilino and the Dragon**

A Czech tale about a clever gypsy who uses his wits(rozum) to make a dragon believe that he is stronger than the beast.  
ages 6-12 12 minutes

**The Fly**

A Vietnamese tale about a clever child who uses riddles and his wits to trick the greedy landlord.  
10 minutes ages 5-15

**Partick's Story**

Tricksters also live around the corner from you. This original contemporary tale shows how Patrick (alias super hero Zordack) does in the terrible Bunyip when he visits Marblehead, his seaside home.  
12 minutes ages 4-12

**Go To Bed**

Gregory would prefer anything to sleep, but faced with the darkness he outwits everyone of his fears.  
10 minutes ages 4-9

**The Adventures of Garganchita**

In the village of Garganchua, one little monster plays one trick too many and learns unwillingly about 'humons.'  
20 minutes ages 4-9

Other trickster tales are available from Haiti (Ti Malice), Cambodia, Eastern Eur. (Hershele of Osterpol), The Far East's famous 'Monkey', and others.