

OUR WIDE WIDE WORLD: Stories That Offer Windows Into Other Cultures

Stories tell us what we share with all human beings in terms of fears, hopes, relationships, and our desire to understand this world we live in. Stories that emerge out of specific world cultures also tell us what is unique to that people, its history and style.

(Partial List)

IN THE BEGINNING: Creation Myths

From Africa to North America we all have explanations of how this world was shaped, how humans came to live on it, and why we must suffer suffer suffer!

10-30 minutes ages 7-12

Glooscape and The Wind Eagle

This wonderful Abenaki tale introduces us to one of the world's great creators and mischief makers while communicating values about how children learn and explaining why the wind works the way it does!

12 minutes ages 5-12

Jumping Mouse

A contemporary tale based in indigenous American cultures teaches the values of sharing and giving from the heart.

20 minutes ages 8-11

La Muerta

The Mexican Day of Death celebrates the godmother of this final passage, and is still a popular holiday throughout Central America.

15 minutes ages 8-11

Owl

In Haitian tales human traits are often attributed to animals who play out our very human foibles.

8 minutes ages 8-11

Anansi

I have numerous tales of this clever spider. Spawn in Western Africa, he has put the moon in the sky, given us stories, and enabled his children to eat what the elephants were saving for themselves!

10-20 minutes ages 4-9

Far East

From the *Three Strong Women of Japan* to *Yen Lee's Feet* (Chinese) to the true life story of a Vietnamese family escaping their country after the war with the U.S., these stories offer very non-traditional perspectives on ancient societies.

10-25 minutes ages 8-12

Greek Myths

From Pandora's curiosity to Demeter's mourning for her stolen daughter, these stories spell out the ancient Greeks' explanations of how our world came to be.

10-25 minutes ages 8-12

Baba Yaga

The famous Russian witch rides in a mortar, propels herself with a pestle, brings the morning, evening, and seasons to pass and has touched the lives of every child growing up in Eastern Europe.

15-25 minutes ages 5-12

Tales of the Diaspora

Jews have wandered this globe for thousands of years, and with them stories that explore their faith, culture, and life style.

5-20 minutes ages 5-12

The British Isles

From Molly Whoopie to Fin M'Coul the heroes and heroines of this world tell you what is valued and what is feared.

10-20 minutes ages 5-12

North American Immigrants

Our country has been shaped by its past and present. These stories representing both the folklore of immigrants and national history will offer a non traditional slice of this nation.

8-20 minutes ages 4-12