

THE BOOK OF FOLK STORIES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649536399

The Book of Folk Stories by Horace E. Scudder

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HORACE E. SCUDDER

**THE BOOK OF
FOLK STORIES**

THE BOOK OF FOLK STORIES

70 .vvdU



John Everett Millais pikt.

Henry Mark skulpt.

CINDERELLA.

**THE BOOK OF FOLK
STORIES**

REWRITTEN BY
HORACE E. SCUDDER



BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
The Riverside Press Cambridge

15
1529

COPYRIGHT, 1887, BY HORACE E. SCUDDER
COPYRIGHT, 1915, BY GRACE OWEN SCUDDER

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

SCUDDER

PREFACE.



FIVE years ago I brought out a little volume, *The Book of Fables*, with the hope that it would serve to introduce children, who had mastered their primers, to an acquaintance with the world's literature. I thought, and still think, that there is no one form of literary art so elementary as the fable, and no book so emphatically a child's first book in literature as one which gathers the fables most familiar to the ears of English-speaking people.

The fable is oriental, and it is antique. It is also exceedingly current and universal as a coin of speech. The man and the boy both use it, and while in its full form it seems most capable of giving pleasure to the child, its conventionalism enables the mature mind to accept it without any sense of condescension to childish things. It is the most perfect literary instrument of association between the young and the old, and becomes,

therefore, by right the first possession of children in literature.

There is another book which is more exclusively the child's, and is shared by older people rather through memory and association than by continued use. Every people of Europe, and the Americans by composite inheritance, have a body of household tales which, whatever their antiquity, have become the peculiar possession of Christendom. Scholars have made comparative studies of these tales, but they have based their studies upon the stories as they have been transmitted, not so much through books as through recital, from mother to child in the course of generations. While poets were forming the literature which fills our libraries, the unlettered people were repeating to each other these familiar tales. Now and then some romancer would take one of them and set it forth in finer, more fantastic garb, but for the most part the form was a homely one which did not greatly vary from one age to another.

The Book of Folk Stories is intended to contain the most famous of these stories, as known to English-speaking people. My pleasant task has been to rewrite them in such a form that they may be read by children themselves, at an age when they

are most capable of enjoying them. I have not knowingly departed from the generally accepted structure of the stories. I have simply tried to use words and constructions which present the fewest difficulties. Children can understand by hearing long before they can understand by reading, and the ordinary versions of these stories would be clearly intelligible to a child of eight listening to them, when the same child might not be able to read the version before he was twelve. But at twelve, we will say, he is beginning to have an interest in maturer forms of literature, and is, indeed, ready for them. What I wish is to make it possible for the child of eight to read these stories himself.

I do not pretend that this little collection is a comprehensive one, or is even representative, but I think it is at least good as far as it goes. It contains famous stories, and those which may most conveniently be used in the class-room; for since much of the early reading which American children get is in their schools, I hope this book may some to be used there, and make the teacher's work lighter through the pleasure which the tales themselves will give to children. Having this in mind, I have arranged the stories with some refer-