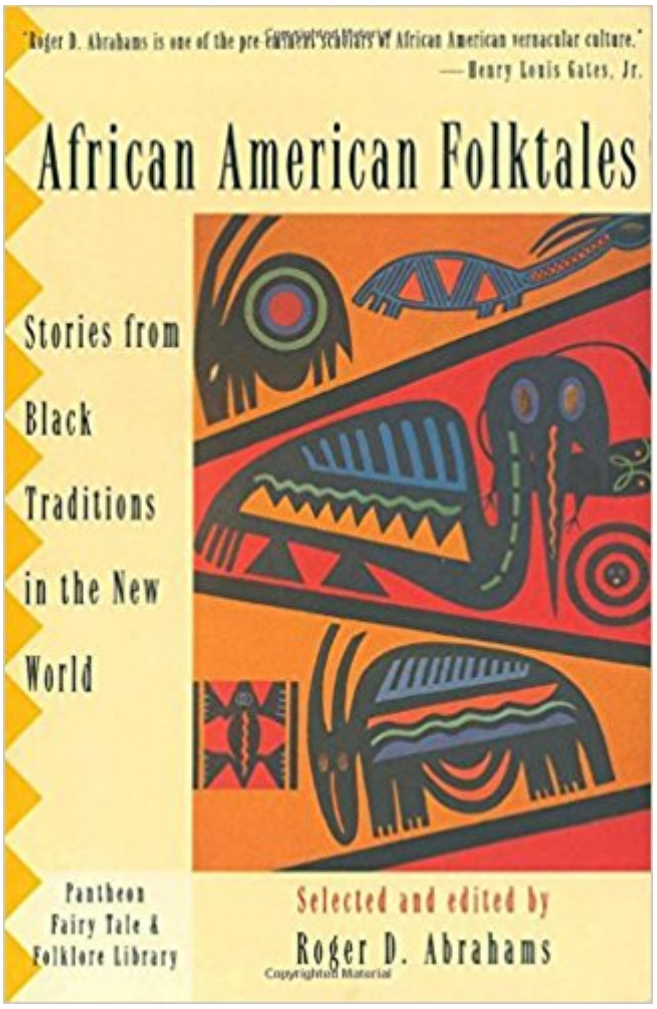
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African American Folktales: Stories From Black Traditions In The New World (The Pantheon Fairy Tale And Folklore Library)



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Synopsis

From the canefileds of the ante-bellum South, the villages of the Caribbean islands, and the streets of contemporary inner cities, here are more than one hundred tales from an "incredibly rich and affirmative storytelling tradition" (Choice).Full of life, wisdom, and humor, these tales range from the earthy comedy of tricksters to stories explaining how the world was created and got to be the way it is, to moral fables that tell of encounters between masters and slaves. They includes stories set down in travelers' reports and plantation journals from the early nineteenth century, tales gathered by collectors such as Joel Chandler Harris and Zora Neale Hurston, and narratives tape-recorded by Roger Abrahams himself during extensive expeditions throughout the American South and the Caribbean.Part of the Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folkore Library

Book Information

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

"Earthy and comedic...a rousing good read.... I suspect Mr. Abraham's book will be read a generation hence."--New York Times Book Review"Another masterful addition and accessible introduction to the captured myths of what the Mede calls 'God's Chiefdom'.... Sweeping across the continent...the juxtaposition of tribes and pacing of story lengths make for lively reading."--Washington Post Book World

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Overall... I loved the book... my grandfather told me a few of these stories... Rudy Ray Moore (RIP) introduced me to "The Signifying Monkey", " Stakolee" & "The Sinking f the Titanic".... the one toast that I thought should have been in this book is "Dolemite"... other than that... these were some nice stories...

I agree with the previous reviewer - some of these tales are not suitable for children. But that can be said of many of the Grimm's fairy tales. Fairy tales and folktales are not for the faint of heart. They can be quite harsh - even gruesome.That said, this is a wonderful and scholarly collection of African-American tales. These tales have a different feel and cadence from the better known European tales. I love them for their novelty.The book is divided into different sections - if memory serves me - trickster tales, Carribean, Creole, and many, many more... Unfortunately I've lost my copy, I wish I could remember better. I am here now to replace it.

Great

Very interesting book. Great discussion book for our book club.

Roger Abrahams is one of the most famous of numerous European Descendants who claim to be writing folklore of African-Americans and Africans but were in reality only taking the most superficial basis and then filling it with their own stories, usually ones that portrayed African Descendants as lazy, violent, and ignorant. This is just the literary version of the rewriting and demeaning of African Diasporic history and culture; this is very important in Euro-American society where the

consciousness must dehumanize the African Diasporic in order to validate the historical inhumanity of slavery.

As I am of African descent I can safely say that never before has reading children's literature been so exciting. This compendium of over one hundred riveting tales invites the reader into a world of mysicism and magic. The characters portrayed are, for the mostpart, very life-like and easily idendified with. The descriptions in this book provide the reader with vivid and very beautiful images of America and the islands that surround it. The diversity of the collection means that the reader is all the time finding out and learning more and more about different cultures and traditions. I would recommend this book very highly to all school teachers as it is an excellent read and it provides a wealth of knowledge about the Afro-American peoples.

I was quite underwhelmed by this book. I am a storyteller and gather stories from around the world to add to my repertoire and to inspire original stories. I found this collection of stories seriously lacking. Many of them had no apparent plot or theme. They seemed to be sentences just strung along together---that led nowhere. The writing didn't flow; many times I had to go back and reread a passage to see if I had missed something. I hadn't. Clearly, the editor was asleep at the wheel. If you're looking for good folktales, keep looking.

I was very excited to find this book, as I have read other works by Roger Abrahams and absolutely loved them. Unfortunately, however, upon reading an excerpt of the book I discovered that one of the stories contained a tale in which a man, in his attemps to assert his superiority over a woman, repeatedly beats her. While I am not sure of what age bracket this book is meant for, the fact that that story was included, regardless of it folkoric accuracy, is very shocking. I'm very dissapointed.

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