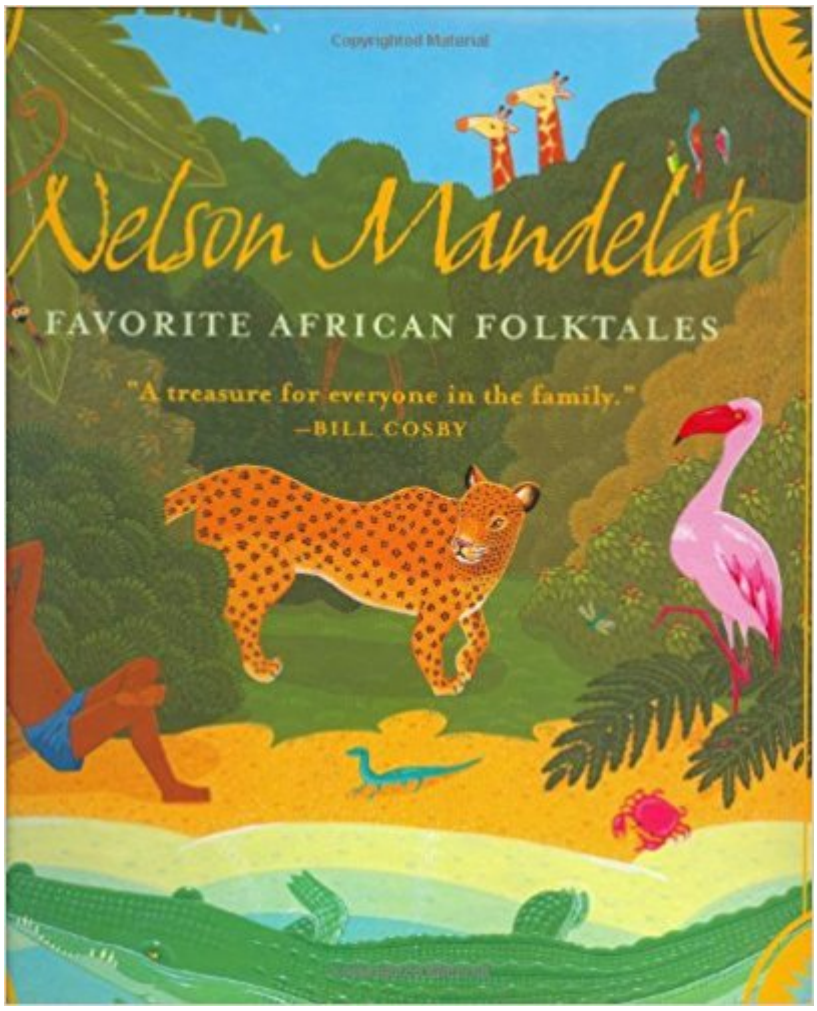
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Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales (Aesop Accolades (Awards))



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Synopsis

"A treasure for everyone in the family." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Bill CosbyNelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales is a cause for celebration, landmark work that gathers in one volume many of Africa's most cherished folktales. Mandela, a Nobel Laureate for Peace, has selected these thirty-two tales with the specific hope that Africa's oldest stories, as well as a few new ones, be perpetuated by future generations and be appreciated by children throughout the world. In these "beloved stories, morsels rich with the gritty essence of Africa," we meet, among many others, a Kenyan lion named Simba, a snake with seven heads and a trickster from Zulu folklore; we hear the voices of the scheming hyena and learn from a Khoi fable how animals acquired their tails and horns. Several creation myths tell us how the land, its animals, and its people all came into existence under a punishing sun or against the backdrop of a spectacularly beautiful mountain landscape. Whether warning children about the dangers of disobedience or demonstrating that the underdog can and often does; win, these stories, through their depiction of wise animals as well as evil monsters, are "universal in their portrayal of humanity, beasts, and the mystical." What is particularly exciting about this book is that many of the stories, in their oral form, are almost as old as Africa itself. Most of them were, in fact, first told in various African tongues around evening fires in centuries past; tales from, for example, the San and the Khoi, the original hunter-gatherers and livestock herders of Southern Africa. Translated into English and other European languages chiefly in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries from their original languages; be they Karanga, Nguni, Xhosa, or one of many others; these folktales are a testament to the craft of storytelling and the power of myth. Accompanied by dozens of enchanting, specially commissioned color paintings, Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales; culled from African countries as far-flung as Morocco, Nigeria, Uganda, and Kenya; presents a fountain of precious knowledge that will be treasured by children, as well as adults, for years to come. color illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nobel Peace laureate Mandela understandably gets top billing here, but this collection of short fables compiles writings and translations by numerous authors and features illustrations by a diverse collection of artists. Together, the tales and their accompanying artwork create a patchwork of legends drawn from all over the African continent, from Morocco to Kenya to Swaziland. Snakes with seven heads and Zulu tricksters are found here, as well as various creation myths and a Kenyan lion (with the familiar name of Simba) who teaches a cunning hyena a lesson. The colorful birds, giant elephants and mischievous children populating the volume teach sometimes cryptic lessons about obedience, perseverance, cooperation and the simple strangeness of life. In one story, the children of an East African village must destroy a beautiful and enchanting bird that has brought bad luck to the surrounding countryside. In another, a courageous girl frees a prince from the spell that made him a python. In tales such as these, the dream-like, unpredictable symbology and sometimes cruel morality of myths resonate, and, in Mandela's words, the "gritty essence of Africa" shines through in stories with universal themes. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 1-5-Mandela states in the foreword, "It is my wish that the voice of the storyteller will never die in Africa-.," and he has chosen 32 traditional tales for this handsome oversized volume. While nearly half the selections have their origins in South Africa, the rest represent some of the continent's most cherished tales and come from Botswana, Swaziland, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and other sub-Saharan countries as well as a single selection from Morocco. Each story is introduced with a short provenance or source note, and a frontispiece map matches each tale with its geographical area. Told by a variety of storytellers and folklorists, or gleaned from previously published sources, the tellings vary from literary to contemporary. The book also provides a showcase for 18 illustrators, mostly from South Africa, who contributed one full-page illustration per

story. This is a rich collection that would provide depth and breadth to any classroom study alongside the many single-tale picture-book editions readily found on library shelves.Susan Hepler, Burgundy Farm Country Day School, Alexandria, VACopyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This book is absolutely gorgeous! As a South African living in the US, I really wanted to find a good selection of books relating to South Africa for my 6 year old daughter. This book does not disappoint! A++

I have been reading these aloud at bedtime to my 8 year old twins and they both love them! Why? They are anything but predictable! I think they have come to expect happy endings or moral lessons, but these stories often have twists that surprise them. Not a lot of illustrations, but the ones they have are lovely and diverse. We have enjoyed looking at the map of Africa marked with flags of where the stories come from. Also have had the opportunity to talk about Nelsen Mandela and his story, which is new to them. Great all around book!

This is a delightful book. The different stories may be best suited for different ages due to the level of inference used. The stories are lively, engaging and many have morals or lessons to be learned.

I was moved by the fund raising effort support for HIV AIDS orphans in South Africa, familiar and admiring of the story collection released some years ago, I was delighted to listen through the entire collection. The blend of music and voice, brilliantly realized by a host of talented talents "Artists for a New South Africa", brings these stories alive! Libraries (like mine) and individuals will appreciate each and every track in this 3 CD set that is up for Grammy nomination.

I’ve been looking for a ÃƒÂ Ã Å¸Ã â œÃ â “ with South African tales in it. I live in America so I want my baby to know about her African heritage

Everyone household should have a copy. It is an absolute cultural delight!! There is a reason Nelson Mandela felt these were some of his favorite folktales.

This book includes stories from all of Africa and is excellent reading for kids of all ages as well as adults. The pictures are bright, detailed, and enhance the stories. I bought this for a five year old

and enjoyed it as much as he did!

The stories are interesting and varied, the production quality is outstanding, and some of the purchase funds go to a good cause. What more can you ask for?

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