

This list has been collated from the survey responses of 50 people around the world who work with stories in relation to nature connection, environmental education and social change in response to environmental crises. These are the titles they provided when we asked for examples of the types of stories they find work well.

We have included the source of the story as listed by the survey respondent. Where no source was given, we have tried to identify an author or culture. As the Shifting the Narrative study focussed on the UK, with more than half of the survey respondents recruited from the UK, we have started the list with stories from these lands.

This collated list demonstrates the wide range of stories that are worked with by eco-tellers today and each teller will work with their repertoire in a different way. It is provided here for your information and inspiration. It is not a definitive list, nor does the research team endorse these stories as being better than any others.

If you are interested in learning more about our research project and our findings, please get in touch with Alette Willis, a.willis@ed.ac.uk or check-in on the website, as we update it with publications and events.

1. Green Ladies of One Tree Hill (England)
2. Weardale Fairies (England)
3. Stolen by Fairies (England)
4. Knucker Stories of Sussex (England)
5. Kate Crackernuts (England)
6. Chicken Licken (or Henny Penny) (England)
7. Lazy Lawrence (England)
8. Apple Tree Man (England)
9. The Tulip Pixies/ Pixies new clothes (England)
10. How the hedgehog came to be (England)
 - a. Somerset story from Sharon Jackstie's book, which she calls 'when the good lord made all the animals'
11. The Pedlar of Swaffham (England)
12. The Tiddy Mun (from Balfour's Legends of the Carrs, England)
13. The ecobardic epic 'Robin of the Wildwood' (told by Fire Springs, England)
14. Myths of Cormac (Ireland)
15. The Corpse Watchers (Ireland?)
16. A Good Action (from Ella Young's Celtic Wonder Tales)
17. Fionn mac Cumhaill (Ireland and Scotland)
18. Thomas the Rhymer (Scotland)
19. Stories of the Cailleach (Ireland and Scotland)
 - a. Cailleach and Bride (Scotland)
20. Jack and the Dancing Trees also referred to as Auld Cruivie (Scotland, Traveller Tale Stanley Robertson)
21. Jack and the Sea Witch (Duncan Williamson, Scotland, Traveller Tale)
22. The King's Gardens (Duncan Williamson, Scotland, Traveller Tale)
23. Duncan McKinnon and the Seal (Duncan Williamson, Scotland, Traveller Tale)

24. Thorn in the King's Foot (Duncan Williamson, Scotland, Traveller Tale)
25. Death in a Nut (Duncan Williams, Scottish Traveller Tale)
26. Fox and Dog (Traveller's tale)
27. Assipattle (Scotland, Orkney)
28. Kelpie Stories
 - a. Taming the Kelpie (Scotland)
 - b. The Kelpie and the crofter (Scotland)
29. Selkie Stories
 - a. The seal hunter (Scotland)
30. Deer Dreaming (Scotland)
31. Rashin Coatie (Scotland)
32. The Ghillie Dhu (Scotland)
33. Taliesin (Wales)
 - a. The Hanes version recorded by Ellis Gruffydd in mid-16th Century, cited by one person
34. Cerridwen (Wales)
35. The Four Branches of the Mabinogion (Wales)
 - a. Also specifically recommended as Dreaming the Night Field based on the 4th Branch of the Mabinogi took the standpoint that the world and the Earth are sentient and transformational <https://www.adversecamber.org/shows/dreaming-night-field-2/>
 - b. Math, Son of Mathonwy (Wales)
36. Stories that explain place names or give the stories back to the landscape (Wales):
 - a. The Cloak of King's Beards,
 - b. The Giant of Gilfach Bargoed,
 - c. The Fourth Branch of the Mabinogion,
 - d. The Bottom Hundred
37. The Grail Legend of The Wounded Land
 - a. The Fisher King (Arthurian, France, Wales)
38. The community of the round table (Arthurian, France, Wales)

39. Tiddalik the Frog (Aboriginal)
40. The Rainbow Serpent (Aboriginal)
41. The Story of the Firetail/Rainbow Bird (Aboriginal)
42. Ti Flor and the Devil (an Acadian tale)
43. The King of the Frogs (Africa, culture unknown)
44. The Last Of the Giants: In this cautionary African tale, a race of giants must leave the world when they refuse to share their bounty. When they are given the boon of what they value most, sons and cows, only cows and sons are born, there will be no future generations with women and bulls.
45. House of Feathers (Amazon)
46. The Story of Sky Woman (Anishinaabe)
47. Any fable from the Kalila wa Dimna collection (Arabic literature)

48. Mulla Nasruddin, in which he tells two farmers: The land doesn't belong to either of you, you both belong to it (Middle East, attributed to many countries)
49. The Old Woman and the Pot The Search – a Mullah Nasrudin story
50. The bird in the king's breast (Aromunian)
51. The Name of the Tree (A Bantu tale retold by Celia Lottridge)
52. The Half Boy (Borneo)
53. Old Man and the Scorpion (Buddhist)
54. Shambala Warriors (Buddhist)
55. Indra's net (Buddhist)
56. Supriya's Bowl (Buddhist)
57. Parvatibai The brave little parrot/ The brave parakeet (Buddhist)
58. Mantis and the flower (Bushmen/South Africa)
59. The King Who Wanted the Moon (Caribbean? There are many stories with this or a similar title)
60. Seeds from the Sun (China)
61. The magic pear tree (China)
62. The pearl that shines at night (China)
63. The elephant and the hummingbird (China)
64. The Gull Woman (Chukchi story from Siberia)
65. The Old Traveller (Croatia)
66. Spider and the Palm Nut Tree (Dan, Liberia)
67. Everything is Connected (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
 - a. From Pleasant DeSpain's book *Eleven Nature Tales, : A Multicultural Journey (1996) August House.*
68. Mikku and the Trees (Estonia)
69. Lindu Daughter of the Sky (Estonia)
70. A War Fought Over a Drop of Honey (Farsi?)
71. The Three Sisters Who Went as Servants to the King's Palace (Finland)
72. Beauty and the Beast (France)
73. The White Snake (Grimm, Germany)
74. The wren and the bear (Grimm, Germany)
75. The Fisherman and his wife (Grimm, Germany)
76. The devil and the three golden hairs (Grimm, Germany)
77. The Handless Maiden (Grimm, Germany)
78. The Queen Bee (Germany)
79. Hans im Glück (Germany)
80. Myth of Erysichthon (Greek)
81. Persephone (Greek myth)
82. The creation of Aphrodite (Greece)
83. The grasshopper who sang all summer (Aesop, Greece)
84. The Third Gift (A Guyanese tale from Jan Carew)
85. The Pretty Maid of Ibronka (Hungarian)
86. The Grumpy Gecko (Indonesia)
87. Parvati bathing (India)

88. The Genesis of Ganesh (India)
89. Amrita and the Forest Trees/The People Who Hugged the Trees (India)
90. The Brahmins and the Bengal Tiger (India)
91. The Weaver and the Tree Spirit (India)
92. The people who hugged trees (India)
93. Stories from India
 - a. Why two types of fish not cooked together in the coastal areas?
 - b. What is the relationship between the sugarcane crop and the rice?
 - i. why both are harvested for the festival seasons.
 - c. How did the water lose its colours?
 - d. How did crows come to share their food?
 - e. The story of How the housefly forgot its name and moved from the calf to the cow involving all the farm animals and the pond and community members like the potter fisherman etc.
 - f. Folktale of How the Punyakoti the Cow helped the tiger to understand her love for her child and lived up to the value of telling the Truth?
 - g. Why does the sunflower always face the sun?
 - h. Jataka tales of the White elephant
 - i. Stories from the Panchatantra is all about sustainability
94. The Raven and The Whale (Inuit story that speaks of grief)
95. Inuit story, Eagle Mother brings Joy (Inuit)
96. Sedna (Inuit)
97. Birds of Fortune (Japan)
98. Snot nosed boy (Japan)
99. Listening to the Land – a Jewish tale (Jewish)
100. Just Enough/Just Enough Left to Make a Story (Jewish)
101. The magic garden of the poor (Kazakh)
102. The legend of Jangjamot (The Rich Man's Pond) (Korea)
103. The story of how seeds came to the earth, and about the importance of weeds and wild plants (Korea)
104. Karakus and the Laughing King (Lebanon)
105. Dovie Tomason's Grandmother story about killing ants and 'How the ants saved the people'. (Lakota/Sioux)
106. The story of the canoe race, about the invention of the sail and how the Pleiades came to be (the Marshall Islands)
107. The Toe Bone and the Tooth (Mayan)
108. Inanna (Mesopotamian myth)
109. Grandmother Spider Steals the Fire (Muskogee)
110. The Lady of Stavoren (Netherlands)
111. Red Bird (Nigeria)
112. The story of Indigo, and the people who took too much (Nigeria)
113. Why the Sky is so Far Away (Bini, Nigeria)
 - a. The story of Indigo, and the people who took too much (Nigeria)
114. The Village with No Frogs (Nigeria)
115. Reaching for the Moon (Nigeria)
116. Tatterhood –although I change the ending (Norway)

117. Son of Raven Steals the Sun (a tale from Nuu-chah-nulth culture)
118. Riverturtle is not singing (Pueblo Indian/USA)
119. Vasilisa (Russia)
120. The Birch Tree (Russia)
121. Sardinian legends of stone metamorphosis
122. The Last Camel of Emir Hamid (Saudi Arabia)
123. Iggdrasil (Norse, Scandinavian)
124. The tale of Baldur (how mistletoe killed a god) (Norse, Scandinavian)
125. Mother Holle (Scandinavian)
126. How the Robin's breast became red (Scandinavian?)
127. The Woman Who Fell From the Sky (Seneca Myth)
128. The journey to the sun (Slovakia)
129. The 12 months (Slovakia)
130. Crowskins Maria (Sweden)
131. Baba Yaga Stories (Multiple Slavic Cultures)
132. The Birch Maiden / The Birch Tree Woman (Various Slavic cultures?)
133. The Firebird and the Horse of Power (Slavic)
134. The water of life and health (Spain)
135. And A Horse Came Back (Taoist?)
136. It is not our problem (Thailand?)
137. Indigenous animal bride stories, like 'The Girl Who Married a Bear.' (Tsimshian)
138. Three Golden Apples (Turkey)
139. The Awongalema Tree (Zanzibar)
140. The kind and unkind girls (Various)
141. Eating in Heaven and Hell/Allegory of the Long Spoons (Various)
142. King and Queen of the birds (Many cultures including in the UK)
143. The stone soup (European)
144. Cinderella variants where she has an animal she helps and is helped by. Eg The Poor Girl and Her Cow.
145. Creation Stories from world religions
146. I tell stories about the witches and goddesses of the seasonal festivals.
147. Many traditional stories of fairies have an unspoken contract between mortals and the fair folk which, when violated, can lead to sickness, poverty and death for the human characters. Fairy/earth justice is merciless, clear, literal and severe

The following stories were suggested by title, but we could not identify a source:

1. Monkey's Jump
2. Why Raven is no more
3. The Cranberry Feast
4. The Best Wish
5. Frogs
6. The Wolf Woman
7. The Boy and The Bears

8. The Wise Old Man
9. The Princess in the Mountain
10. The Girl in the Garden

'Real World Stories'

1. The true ecological story 'The Golden Toad' (told by Anthony Nanson)
2. The rubbish dump orchestra
3. story-based case studies
4. Gaviotas: the village in Colombia built on the llanos and serves as an environmental icon
5. True stories from climate podcasts like Mothers of Invention

Authored Stories

1. Alan Garner's collections
2. The Great Kapok Tree (authored)
 - a. Lynne Cherry, *The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest*, 1990 Clarion Books
3. The Red Shoes (authored, Hans Christian Anderson, Denmark)
4. The Giving Tree (authored, Shel Silverstein)
5. 'The Glass Cupboard' by Terry Jones
6. A great dragon story (I don't know the name) – the dragon once heated a castle and was well-fed on castle scraps in payment. Centuries pass and now that everything is wrapped in plastic, the dragon ends up eating plastic rubbish, and it's fumes poison everyone.
7. Momo (A novel by Michael Ende – about the importance of slowing down and taking time to care for each other)
8. The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (authored, true story)
 - a. William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer, *US: William Morrow Publishers* (2009)
9. Brother Eagle Sister Sky (authored?)
 - a. Not sure if this refers to Susan Jeffers Adaptation of Chief Seattle's Speech, published by Puffin Books
10. Who speaks for wolf (Paula Underwood)
11. Lonely Rowan (original, told)
12. The Hunter and the Fox Woman (original told)
 - a. Martin Shaw, possibly original to him
13. There is a story I tell about the creation of the earth that I heard Martin Shaw tell once about a water rat spewing forth all the wonders of the earth –a gem.
14. Frog & Toad plant a garden (for younger children) (authored)
 - a. 'The Garden' From Arnold Lobel's book, *Frog and Toad Together* (Harper and Row, 1972)
15. Elsie Piddock Skips in Her Sleep (authored)

- a. Eleanor Farjeon, MA, USA: Candlewick (1937)
16. The Magic Garden (not clear if this the one by Gene Stratton-Porter or the Kazakh folktale, which is listed above)
17. I Go I Know Not Where to Bring Back I Know Not What (Marya Morevna)
18. The Legend of Rainbow Warriors (could also be seen as a new traditional tale)

Books mentioned by title:

The Tree with Golden Apples, by Susan Strauss and Ian Edwards, forthcoming in 2022, Fulcrum: US and UK.

Storytelling for a Greener World: Environment, Community and Story-based Learning, edited by Alida Gersie, Anthony Nanson and Edward Schieffelin, 2014, Hawthorne Press: Stroud. Recently reissued as Storytelling for Nature Connection 2021.

The Earth Stories Collection: <http://theearthstoriescollection.org/>
The Earth Stories Collection Volume 1. The Myths of the Future, by Grian Cutanda 2020
The Earth Stories Collection Volume 0. How to Make Another World Possible with Myths, Legends and Traditional Stories, by Grian A. Cutanda 2019

Dancing with Trees: Eco-tales from the British Isles, by Allison Galbraith and Alette Willis, 2017, History Press: Stroud.

Tales with Tails: Storytelling the Wonders of the Natural World, by Kevin Strauss, K. 2006, Libraries Unlimited: London

Earth Care: World Folktales to Talk About, by Margaret Read MacDonald, 1999, Linnet Books: North Haven, CT.

Earthtales: Storytelling in Times of Change, by Alida Gersie, 1992, The Merlin Press: London.

Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children by Michael J Caduto and Joseph Bruchac, 1989, Fulcrum: Golden Colorado. There are other books in this series

Brochure: "A basket full of fruit"

'Shifting the Narrative: Exploring the Role of Arts Interventions in supporting communities in working across sectors to achieve place-based climate action' was a research project at the University of Edinburgh, funded by the British Academy, which ran from January to June of 2022. The research team consisted of Alette Willis (Principal Investigator), Ramsey Affifi, Jule Hildmann and Arno Verhoeven. For more information about the project, please email Alette Willis at a.willis@ed.ac.uk