**Recommended Stories for First Grade**
*Compiled by Patti Connolly and Janet Langley*

There are, of course, many wonderful stories to be told during the First Grade. The following are the ones that we feel shouldn’t be missed.

Note: Be sure to intersperse traditional fairy tales with a healthy dose of humorous tales...try to bring a light-hearted story at least once every couple of weeks. Remember-love your story! Don’t tell it if it feels wrong or you can’t relate. Also, remember, in the first grade you don’t have to tell each story verbatim. For example, you can add descriptions of the food if a feast is mentioned for the phlegmatics or toss in some color or animals for the sanguines. But, do hang on to the delicious vocabulary found in these tales. Also, keep in mind that each character represents some aspect of the human being, so don’t drop out a character without conscious thought.

**First off, we highly recommend getting a copy of each of these collections:**
- *Grimms’ Fairy Tales, Pantheon Edition*
- *Just So Stories, Rudyard Kipling*
- *Keys to the Kingdom, E. Gmeyner and J. Russell*
- *The Emerald Story Book; Stories and Legends of Spring, Nature and Easter, Ada M. Skinner*

**Very Special Stories**

**First Day of 1st Grade story:** Absolutely perfect for your first story about the straight line and the curve is the old English folk tale, *Lunsmore of Knockgraften*. This endearing tale of a hunchback that helped the fairies complete their song is truly special. Because of his kindness, they take his hump away and for the first time in his life, instead of being always curved over, he is able to stand up straight and see the sky! We found our version in the indispensible collection of tales and poems, *Keys to the Kingdom*. (In your review, be sure to point out that a complete life requires being able to ‘curve over’ (e.g., bend over to observe a ladybug on a leaf) and stand straight [e.g., to see the stars]…both are important.)

**Introduction to your first Language Skills block:** Nothing could be better than Rudyard Kipling’s *How the First Letter Was Written* found in his *Just So Stories*. This story will have your students laughing with delight as Taffy’s “picture note” to her mother almost causes the undoing of a very nice stranger (who is a “Tewawa”!) Don’t forget to create a copy of her letter to show the students...most renditions of this story include a template. (I changed the hills that they traveled over to mountains (a big one and a little one) that they traveled through and used the story to introduce our first letter “M/m”.)

Another absolute delight to hear and tell is Alfred Smedberg’s *The Seven Wishes* from his collection entitled *Swedish Folk Tales*. This hilarious story about a very lazy fool (at least he is at first) has a powerful underlying message about the value of education...not to be missed! (Don’t forget to check out his other tales, as well.)
Letter Q: Dorothy Harrer’s story about *The Queen Who Lost Things* is a great story for introducing the letter “Q”.

Favorites from the Grimms Brothers

**Autumn Stories**
*Strong Hans*
*The Twelve Dancing Princesses*
*Twelve Huntsmen*
*Rumpelstilskin*
*The Frog King or Iron Henry*

**Alphabet Images**
*Snow White and Rose Red* (Letter Bb- with the bear, bushes, beard, bag, bird, etc. there are many opportunities to delve into that sound. And the bear makes a nice “B” picture)
*The Golden Goose* (Letter Gg)
*Fisherman and His Wife* (Letter Ff)
*King Thrushbeard* (Letter Kk)
*Simeli Mountain* (Letter Mm)

**Winter Stories**
*Twelve Brothers*
*Water of Life*
*Babushka*, Russian holiday tale
*The Sacred Flame, The Holy Night* and *The Flight into Egypt*, in *Christ Legends*, Selma Lagerlof,

**Spring Stories**
*Jorinda and Joringel*
*Crystal Ball*
*Cunning Little Tailor*

**Any Time**
*Hansel and Gretel*                                          *The True Bride*
*The Raven*                                                *The Devil’s Three Gold Hairs*
*The Willow Wren*                                          *Ashenputtel*
*Little Red Cap*                                            *The Six Swans*
*The Ugly Duckling*                                        *The Golden Bird*
*The Nixie of the Millpond*                                *Cap O’ Rushes*
*King of the Golden Mountain*                             *The Spindle, The Shuttle, and the Needle*
*The Three Feathers*                                       *The Bremen Town Musician*
*Old Women in the Wood*
Note: Check with the Kindergarten teachers as to which of these stories they told to their classes and avoid those.

Alphabet Images from Multicultural Sources
The Paper Dragon, Marguerit Davol (Chinese story for Letter Mm)
Eye of the Needle, (Yupik tale for Letter Nn
The Great Giant Kinak, in The Dancing Fox, Arctic Folktales, Mary Okhenna (Inuit tale for Letter Kk)
Fire on the Mountain, by Jane Kurtz (Ethiopian tale for Letter Ff)
Wali Dad, Andrew Lang and Kristina Rodanas, Brown Fairy Book (Indian tale for Letter Pp for princess and Jj for jug)

Tales from Asia and Africa
Seven Chinese Brothers, Margaret Mahy
Yayoi and the Tree, Tales from the Bamboo Grove, Jean Tseng and Mou-sien Tseng
Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain, Verna Aardema (Kenyan tale, great 1st grade play)
The Stonecutter, retold by Gerald McDermott (Japan)
Three great Japanese tales:
Momotoro (Little Peachling) (http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/72/japanese-fairy-tales/4845/momotaro-or-the-story-of-the-son-of-a-peach/)
Tongue-Cut Sparrow (http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/72/japanese-fairy-tales/4883/the-tongue-cut-sparrow/)
Issun-boshi (One-Inch Boy) (https://sites.dartmouth.edu/folklorearchive/tag/one-inch-boy/)

More Favorite Stories
Six Foolish Fishermen, Benjamin Ilkin
The Twelve Months, Book House collection, Volume 3
How the Land was Divided, Harry Kretz
The Soldier, the Huntsman and the Servant, in Verses and Poems and Stories to Tell, Dorothy Harrer
Baba Yaga (Russian tale)
The Lucky Little Lapp, Book Trail collection, adapted from Zacharias Topelius’ Father We Thank Thee
The Story the Bells Told, Book Trail series: Enchanted Lands, Vol. 2
The Blue Parrot, Andrew Lang
It Could Always Be Worse, Margot Aemach, funny story
The Strong Boy, Book House collection, (a Canadian Indian fairy tale)
The Little Girl Who Lied, Wonder Book collection
The Lost Lamb, James Harriott
Little Old Lady of Cliffside, Edythe Dumas (Norway)

**Home Surroundings Block**
These books have so many great nature stories. Must haves!
Nature Stories, Margaret Peckham
Nature Ways in Story and Verse, Dorothy Harrer (Snowflake and Rainbow stories are great for the Numbers block)
Flower Stories, Lenore Mulets
She has also written Insect Stories, Bird Stories, and Stories of Little Animals. Find free digital copies at http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/mulets/flower/flower.html

And a few more stories...
The Fairy Flower and Buzz and Hum, The Emerald Story Book
How the Flowers Came, Jay Stocking
The Four Friends, (Clifford Monks wrote a little play of this story)
Making of the Fairy Tree, The Seven Year Wonder book

**Websites:**
http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/folktexts.html
http://www.worldoftales.com
www.mainlesson.com/
Japanese collection: http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/72/japanese-fairy-tales/