The following list accompanies the stories in the Legends chapter to be found in the *Allyn & Bacon Anthology of Traditional Literature* edited by Judith V. Lechner, Allyn & Bacon, 2003.

“Sundiata – The Lion Awakens”

Two retellings of the Sundiata legend for children, one a full length novel, the other a picture book, bring the thirteenth-century hero alive:

- **Bertol, Roland.** *Sundiata: The Epic of the Lion King,* Thomas Y. Crowell, 1970. Bertol retells the complete legend for children. Though he combines several different versions of the epic and omits many details, his telling is both poetic and maintains the spirit of the epic.

- **Wisniewski, David.** *Sundiata: Lion King of Mali.* Clarion, 1992. Retells the story

“Gilgamesh”

Several children’s picture book versions exist which convey some of the philosophical questions raised by the epic:


- **Feagles, Anita.** *He Who Saw Everything: The Epic of Gilgamesh.* Illustrated by Xavier González. Young Scott Books, 1966. The text is based on several translations of the Akkadian tablets and is close in spirit and wording to the original.

- **Zeman, Ludmila.** *Gilgamesh the King.* Tundra, 1992; *Revenge of Ishtar,* Tundra, 1993; and *Last Quest of Gilgamesh,* Tundra, 1995. Zeman’s three picture books convey the theme of friendship and the idea that immortality can be attained only through stories, such as this epic. The dynamic illustrations evoke ancient Mesopotamian art and architecture.

There is a brief but well told version in:


“The Ramayana – The March to Lanka”

The Ramayana has inspired quite a few English retellings for children, including Mukerji’s *Rama the Hero of India* from which the excerpts are taken. Other picture book and chapter books include:

- **Beach, Milo.** *The Adventures of Rama: With Illustrations from a Sixteenth-century...*


- Gavin, Jamila. Stories from the Hindu World. 1986. Includes the story of Rama and Sita with illustrations that evoke the art of India. Ages 9-12.

- Highwater, Jamake. Rama: A Legend. (1994) This is a chapter book retelling.


- Ram, Govinda, Rama and Sita: An Indian Folk Tale. 1988.


“The Cyclops” and “The Island of Aeolus, the Laestrygons, Circe”

Some children’s versions of the Odyssey include:


“The Children of Lir”

MacGill’s picture book captures the magical beauty of the story:


“The Chase of the Gilla Dacar”

Some of the picture books, story collections, and videos about Finn are:


“The Sword in the Stone”

There are many excellent retellings of the Arthurian legends. Young adults are likely to enjoy:

• Sutcliff, Rosemary. *The Sword and the Circle,* Dutton, 1981; *The Light Beyond the Forest,* Dutton, 1980; and *The Road to Camlann,* Dutton, 1982. These three books are a trilogy of Arthur’s life.

• White, T. H. *Once and Future King,* Putnam, 1958, 1987. The book begins with humorous and exciting episodes during the training of young Arthur and unfolds with grandeur to the story’s tragic end. The first part, “The Sword in the Stone” is most appropriate for ages 9-13 the rest is more for young adult and adult readers.

For younger children there are:


The following provides cultural background:


“Gawain and the Lady Ragnell”

A beautifully illustrated version for children is the following:

• Hastings, Selina. *Sir Gawain and the Loathly Lady,* Illustrated by Juan Wijngaard. Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard, 1985. The language is for 9 to 12 year olds, with illustrations that evoke the Middle Ages.

“Robin Hood and the Bishop of Hereford” and “Robin Hood and Little John”


Prose versions for readers between 8 and 12 include:


For younger readers there are:


Two picture book versions have been created by:


For a more sophisticated, psychological treatment of the character of Robin, see:


For recent young adult fiction involving the characters of Robin and Maid Marian, see:


Cadnum, Michael. *In a Dark Wood*. Orchard, 1998.

“The Singing Contest”

Several children’s books, which relate different parts of the epic, include:


“Sasabonsam Meets His Match”

Some recommended collections that include African legends are:

• Mbugua, Milton. *Inkishu: Myths and Legends of the Masai*. Nairobi, Kenya: Jacaranda Design. This is a collection of folktales from Kenya and Tanzania.

“A Merry Prank of Pa-Leng-Ts’ang”
A picture book that tells the legend of the creation of the horsehead fiddle is:

“Vasistha’s Ardhangini”
One collection for children that combines discussion of holidays, beliefs, and the stories associated with them is:
• Jaffrey, Madhur. *Seasons of Splendour: Tales, Myths & Legends of India*. Illustrated by Michael Foreman. Atheneum, 1985. The author arranges the stories around holidays that she recalls from her childhood. She explains how the holiday is associated with a particular god or hero and then retells a story about them. The mysterious watercolor illustrations make the heroes and monsters memorable.

A picture book about another faithful and devout couple is the following retelling form the Mahabharata:

“St. Bridget”
Besides Farjeon’s well told stories of saints, other collections of saints’ lives include:
• Armstrong, Carole. *Lives and Legends of the Saints with Paintings from the Great Art Museums of the World*. Simon and Schuster, 1995. 45 p. Well reviewed in *Kirkus Review*, this book gives historic backgrounds and interesting facts about famous saints for older readers, ages 10 and up - the tortures saints experienced, such as St. Apollonia, the patron of dentists having all her teeth pulled before her leaping into a bonfire, are mentioned.


Some picture books and illustrated books for younger children about Irish saints include:
• Fritz, Jean. *Brendan the Navigator: A History Mystery About the Discovery of America*. 
Illustrated by Enrico Arno. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1979.

- MacGill-Callahan, Sheila. *The Last Snake in Ireland: A Story About St. Patrick*

  Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2000. Tells of the legend of a saint from the time of St. Patrick. Even the animals were drawn to his kindness.

“Legend of the Corn Bead”

The following are informational books about the Cherokee:

- Bealer, Alex W. *Only the Names Remain: The Cherokees and the Trail of Tears.*
  Illustrated by Kristina Rodanas. Little, Brown, 1996. This is a newly illustrated version of an older book.

- McAmis, Herb. *The Cherokee.* Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 2000. 48 p. Ages 10-12. This is a resource which includes legends, history, contemporary politics and culture of the Cherokee.

“The Story of Noquilpi The Great Gambler”

Other illustrated and picture books about the Anasazi that can help children learn about this pre-Columbian culture of the Southwest are:

- *Between Sacred Mountains: Stories and Lessons from the Dead*, the book from which this story was taken, was put together by Navajo students at Rock Point Community School at Chinle, Arizona. This book is a good resource of Navajo traditional stories with cultural explanations and includes the story of “The Great Gambler”


- Gates, Viola. *Journey to Center Place.* Illustrated by Paulette Livers Lambert. Roberts Rinehart, 1996. [Council of Indian Education Series] This historical fiction gives a glimpse into what life might have been like for a twelve year old girl about to migrate with her family away from her Anasazi home place in 1130 CE. Ages 10-14.

“The Legend of the Swift Wind – The Roadrunner”

Apache legends are retold in the following picture book and collection:


The following is an informational book about the lives of the Apache. It includes one coyote tale.

Brookfield, Jennifer Fleischman.


“A Woman’s Fight”

Besides Linderman’s biography of Pretty Shield from which “A Woman’s Fight” is taken, there is a fictional account, appropriate for young adults, of a Crow woman chief’s life:


A contemporary Crow high school basketball star, Sharon LaForge, inspired the author of the following book to write about life among the Crow today with a focus on a high school student’s life choices in her Montana town:


“Seeds of Faith”

Some of the illustrated collections that begin to fill in the gap for children include:


“La Llorona,” which is one of the best known among Hispanic legends, has been made into picture book format by several authors. These are listed in this anthology with the story of La Llorona under “Legends of the Supernatural.” Other picture books of legends from Latin American and U.S. Hispanic cultures include:


“La Llorona”
Picture book versions of “La Llorona” include:

The legend is also included in collections of Hispanic folklore:

“Spearfinger”
Spearfinger is retold orally on the following recording:
• Holt, David.  *Tailybone and Other Strange Stories* [sound recording].  Fairview, NC : High Windy Records, p1985. 1 sound disc (39 min.).
• Littlejohn, Kathi Smith.  *Cherokee Legends I and Cherokee Legends II*.  Cherokee, N. C: Cherokee Communications, 1992.  Audio recordings.  Most of her stories are on these recordings.  Her humorous and personal style make these a good introduction to the art of storytelling for younger children. Ages 6-8.

“White House Ghosts”
The following are a few sources of American ghost stories for children: