TRICKSTERS

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

“The Fantastic Lying Contest”

The following are some of the recent picture books and illustrated books about Anansi in West Africa, particularly Ghana (for Jamaican stories about Anansi, see “Toad and Donkey” below):


Two videos about Anansi include:

- *A Story a Story*. From the book by Gail Haley. Weston Woods, 197

Audiorecordings


“How Chakide Rode the Lion”

Some picture books and story collections that include this theme are:


“The Master Trickster”
Anansi’s laziness and use of tricks to harvest other people’s crops is also portrayed in


“*The Rat and the Ox*”
Some of the variants can be found in collections and picture books:


“The Hoca and the Dessert”
The two collections below relate stories of this multifaceted character for children in English:


“The Clever Peasant Girl”
The following is a picture book version:

• Peterson, Julienne. *Caterina the Clever Farm Girl: A Tale from Italy*. Illustrated by Enzo Giannini. Dial. 1996.

Another retelling from Czech Republic can be found in:


“How Till Owlyglass”
Some picture books of Till include:


• Williams, Jay. *The Wicked Tricks of Tyli Uilenspiegel*. Illustrated by Friso Henstra. Four

“Reynard and the Wolf”
Several illustrated books for children commemorate the escapades of Reynard and bring the medieval setting alive:


“Jack and the Varmints”


Audiorecordings:


“Brer Tiger and the Big Wind” and “The Moon in the Pond”

Collections, picture books, and sound recordings devoted entirely to Brer Rabbit and his friends include:

- Faulkner, William. *The Day the Animals Talked: Black American Folktales and How They Came to Be*. Illustrated by Troy Howell. Follett, 1977. This was the first modern retelling of the Brer Rabbit stories. It was based on stories the author heard as a young man in the early part of the twentieth-century.
- Harris, Joel Chandler. *The Tales of Uncle Remus*. Adapted by Julius Lester. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial, 1987. This and the next three books in the series were adapted for modern readers and listeners.
- Parks, Van Dyke and Malcolm Jones. *Jump!: The Adventures of Brer Rabbit*. Illustrated by Barry Moser. Harcourt Brace, 1986. This and the following books in the series are picture books with Moser’s sophisticated characterization of the trickster.
- Parks, Van Dyke. *Jump Again! More Adventures of Brer Rabbit*. Illustrated by Barry

Audiorecordings:
• Brer Rabbit and Boss Lion  Written by Brad Kessler.  Told by Danny Glover.  Rabbit Ears, 1992.  1 sound disc (52 min.) : digital ; 4 3/4 in.

“Rabbit Escapes from the Wolves”
• Ross, Gayle.  How Turtle’s Back Was Cracked.  Illustrated by Murv Jacobs. Dial, 1995.  In this ‘pourquoi’ Turtle foolishly brags to the wolves about being a great wolf hunter, but when he is about to be punished, he gets away in true trickster fashion.

Audiorecordings:

“Napi and the Mice”
The following is Paul Goble’s picture book version of “Napi and the Mice” (Napi and Iktomi are the same character – Napi is Blackfoot, Iktomi is Lakota (Sioux):

Other Iktomi books by Paul Goble include:

“A Satisfying Meal”
Paul Goble retells a Lakota (Sioux) Indian version in which Coyote tricks the trickster Iktomi:

“Toad and Donkey”
Other Jamaican stories in picture book and story collections include:
• Berry, James.  First Palm Trees: An Anancy Spiderman Story . Illustrated by Greg Couch.  Simon and Schuster, 1997.  This is a literary tale based on themes of Anancy and creation myths.

Video recordings:
• **Anansi.** Narrated by Denzel Washington. Written by Brian Gleeson. Rabbit Ears Radio, 1991. (VHS) 30 min. Listening to Washington’s reading, one may obtain a sense of the rhythm and inflection of the Jamaican dialect. The video includes “Tiger and Anansi” and “Anansi’s Hat Shaking Dance”

**Audiorecordings:**


**“King of Leaves”**

• Gonzalez, Lucia. *Senor Cat’s Romance And Other Favorite Stories from Latin America.* Illustrated by Lulu Delacre. Scholastic, 1997. The collection includes another leaf-trick story and several other humorous and trickster tales.

**“Coyote Rings the Wrong Bell”**

Two delightful picture books that capture the humorous rivalry between Coyote and a weaker but smarter animal are:

• Johnston, Tony *The Tale of Rabbit and Coyote.* Illustrated by Tomie de Paola. Putnam, 1994. This picture book, which retells a Zapotec Indian story from southern Mexico, also includes the wasp nest-as-school motif.

• Aardema, Verna. *Borreguita and the Coyote.* Illustrated by Petra Mathers. Knopf, 1991. Borreguita, a lamb, gets rid of hungry Coyote by having him hold up a rock while he gets away, and having him dive for the moon in a pond when he hunts borreguita down again. Both of these motifs are international.