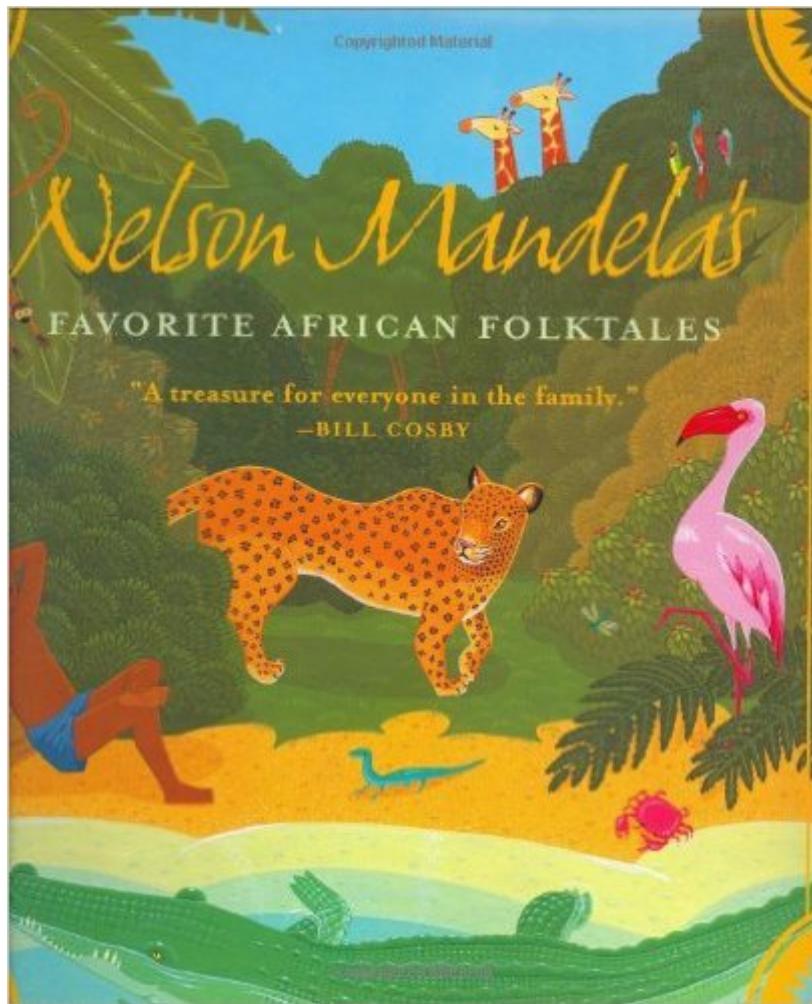


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# Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales (Aesop Accolades (Awards))



## Synopsis

"A treasure for everyone in the family." •Bill Cosby Nelson 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

Age Range: 8 and up

Series: Aesop Accolades (Awards)

Hardcover: 144 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (50 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #556,267 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > African #31 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Africa #80 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > African

## Customer Reviews

These stories are delightful, the illustrations are superb...I bought a copy for my grand-daughter, and was so enthralled that I ordered a second copy for me!

This audiobook was awarded the 2010 Audies for Audiobook of the Year and Best Multi-Voiced Audiobook. It was nominated for a Grammy, received a number of other accolades and awards. The story readings on this audiobook are wonderful for children of all ages and adults as well, and your purchase supports children in South Africa orphaned by AIDS. The readings are done by numerous remarkable actors including Gillian Anderson, Benjamin Bratt, Don Cheadle, Matt Damon, Whoopi Goldberg, Sean Hayes, Samuel L. Jackson, LaTanya Richardson Jackson, Debra Messing, Helen Mirren, Parminder Nagra, Sophie Okonedo, CCH Pounder, Alan Rickman, Jurnee Smollett, Charlize Theron, Blair Underwood, Forest Whitaker, and Alfre Woodard with a message from Desmond Tutu and music by African legends Johnny Clegg and Vusi Mahlasela.

The stories are rich and full of life. Storytelling lives on...thank you!

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 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 Nelson Mandela and his story, which is new to them. Great all around book!

This is my family's favorite book. Packed full of excellent and interesting folk tales, it is the one I choose most often to read to classrooms, special groups or to my own children (3 and 7) at bedtime. We began with the companion CD of celebrity voices then wanted the entire collection. Countless classmate's parents have asked for the book's title after I read to the class. This book is a treasure and a very smart addition to any library. A few stories have death (an evil bird) or a fight (knocking a bully down) but it is all in context of excellent life lessons. I feel confident opening it to any page and reading to any child.

I go to Kenya and work with a little school of children....I collect children's books about Kenya or in this case....the folk tales by Nelson Mandela....perfect for my collection and for sharing with my grandchildren.....

Yes - the cause is 5 stars; the stories, less than 5. I've heard 6 so far and I thought only one was good (the very first one). Several are relatively long but do not use the duration to tell anything deep, particularly interesting, of value... they are just stories. I don't find these anywhere near as good as Tell Me A Story: Timeless Folktales from Around the World, which I believe include some great African tales.

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