ENG221 Children’s Literature
Guided Reading
Chapter 6: Traditional Literature

“Truth used to run around the world naked. Everyone was frightened and avoided him. He saw someone dressed in beautiful robes surrounded by friends. Truth asked her name. She answered, ‘I am story. I could dress you.’ And from that day forth, Truth and Story traveled together.”
   a Jewish Tale from Stories to Nourish the Hearts of Our Children in a Time of Crisis

“What lasts forever and is visible but invisible, is as small as a dot in space but vaster than an ocean. (Story)” from Stories to Nourish the Hearts of Our Children in a Time of Crisis

Introduction
Study the informal outline at the beginning of the chapter to organize your reading.

A Perspective on Traditional Literature

- Begin your working definition of Traditional Literature. What are the features and qualities of all types of Traditional Literature?
- What are the types of Traditional Literature?
- What are the values of Traditional Literature?
- What do the terms monogenesis and polygenesis add to our discussion of the origins of traditional literature?

Folktales/Fairytales

- Define folktales/fairytales.
- Identify the characteristics of these folktale elements:
  - Plot structure
  - Characterization
  - Style
  - Theme
  - Motifs
- What are folktale variants?
- Skim the sections on folktales from various parts of the world, selecting the titles that interest you.

Fables

- What are the characteristics of fables?

Myths

- What is the description of mythology?
- Note the distinguishing features of these forms of myth:
  - Creation
  - Nature
  - Hero

Epic and Legendary Heroes

- Distinguish between epics and other folk literature
- Skim the section on medieval heroes.
Weekly Writing: Choose one of the following to either complete or essay your response.

- **Storytelling**: Select one folktale you would like to learn to tell. Prepare it and tell it to us at the beginning of class next week. (Yes, that's right. There's no writing in this choice!)

- **Fable Writing**: Beginning with a moral chosen from one of the fable collections, write a modern fable. Then explain how you used the elements of fable.

- Name your favorite fairy tale. Write about its importance to you as a child. Explain how you adapted the fantasy to your own life. Describe how it affected you as an adolescent and how it affects you now.

- Write several annotated bibliographies. This time, choose books out of our Traditional Literature. Work with our text's clear description/explanations for your category and consider the Evaluating Folktales guidelines on page 281.

- Attend one or more events at the Tcha Tee Man Wi Storytelling Festival being held in Corvallis on Feb. 1-4. Describe the experience and what you learned. How would you categorize the tales you saw performed? Find more information at: http://www.thebestlibrary.net/corvallis/storyfest/bibliography.asp