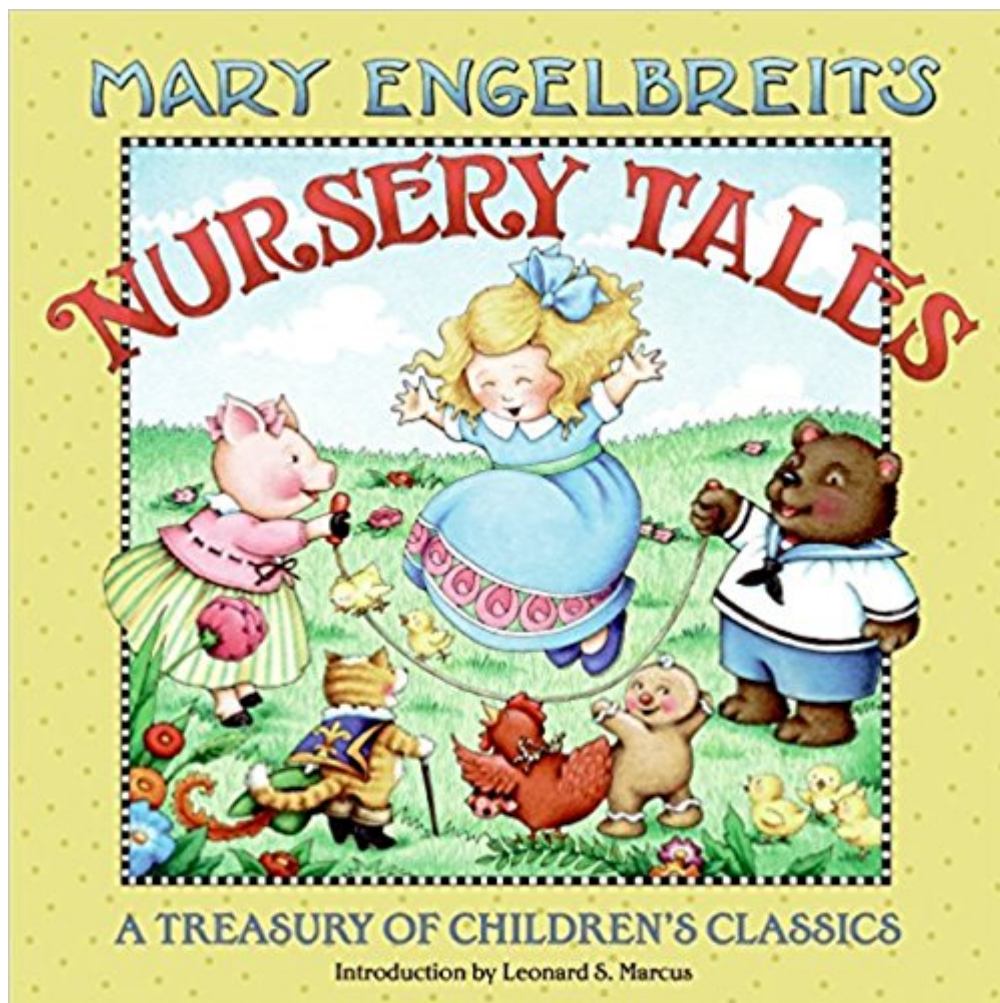




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Mary Engelbreit's Nursery Tales: A Treasury Of Children's Classics



Synopsis

Jack and the Beanstalk, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, the Little Red Hen, and nine other tales are brought to life in this superb treasury. The delightful characters will become storyland friends for life for children who meet them here. Just wait until your child sees the Giant's expression as he cries, "Fee, fi, fo, fum," or the adorable Elves dancing in the Shoemaker's cottage! The Ginger-bread Boy's candy buttons and the dazzling feathers of the Ugly Duckling are among the many inviting details to discover with each new look. A collection of nursery tales so child friendly, rewarding, and full of fun could only have come from the rich and playful imagination of Mary Engelbreit.

Book Information

Hardcover: 136 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins (October 14, 2008)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.6 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 68 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #243,102 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #156 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Anthologies](#) #1888 in [Books > Children's Books > Classics](#) #6192 in [Books > Children's Books > Humor](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

PreSchool-K&A – Engelbreit brings her trademark sunny style to this collection of 12 tales and successfully walks the line between adapting the stories for a preschool audience and watering them down. The world that these characters inhabit vibrates with bright colors, friendly animals, and buildings and woods of the timeless fairy-tale variety. Scary things happen, but only to the bad guys, and only offstage. Jack's giant dies falling from the beanstalk and Gretel pushes the witch into the oven, but the Big Bad Wolf escapes the woodcutter with only a scolding after he lets Red Riding Hood and her grandmother out of his stomach unharmed. Even the Gingerbread Boy eludes the fox and keeps on running at the end of the story. The artist portrays two of the three little pigs as

female, as are the posh city mouse and her homely country cousin. The humorous expressions of the characters (see Goldilocks sinking into Mama Bear's super-soft bed for a laugh) and the lines of text incorporated into the illustrations are classic Engelbreit touches. This cheery collection will appeal to the artist's fans, as well as to anyone looking for not-too-scary versions of old favorites for young children. —Kathleen Kelly MacMillan, Carroll County Public Library, MD Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

“The humorous expressions of the characters and the lines of text incorporated into the illustrations are classic Engelbreit touches. This cheery collection will appeal to the artist's fans, as well as to anyone looking for not-too-scary versions of old favorites for young children.” (School Library Journal)

But I'm so disappointed. I will say that the artwork is spectacular. If only there were more of it. I bought this book for my 2 year old, as she's getting so excited about all these old tales and LOVES The Three Little Pigs and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. But the stories in this book leave much to be desired. As we know, children pick up so much visually. But this book is shortened versions of all the stories. They've left out so much! Is a two year old supposed to imagine the wolf blowing down houses? Because they only show him blowing one. The same story also states that some pigs are just sitting down to a meal of hot stew, but there is no picture illustrating any of it. In fact the entire story of the three pigs is told in approximately 5-6 pages with only a few pictures. Fantastic pictures, yes. But only a few. Your child would have to be very familiar with the stories, and be old enough to imagine all that is missing. The three bears is much the same. Just a few pictures, and lots of important information left out. For example, the pictures of the three beds are so small that only a tiny bit of the beds are showing, just the pillow and some of the top. It is impossible to tell if it is papa bears, mama bears, or baby bears bed at all, much less that it's too hard, sort, or just right. The narration doesn't mention anything such as "papa bear looked at his chair, and saw that it was out of place." it just goes directly in to "Someone's been sitting in my chair" said Papa Bear. "Someone's been sitting in my chair" said Mama bear. All of the stories are the same. Way shortened versions of the originals. I won't go in to the endings, as that's been mentioned and it's really personal preference whether you enjoy the original endings or a more toned down version. I will also point out that the pages are extremely thin. We have already torn two just having myself read the book to my daughter. And the size and weight make it extremely awkward to hold on to with a child on your lap. I would return this book in a heartbeat if I hadn't torn a page the first day

just turning it. I'd much rather have these stories from Brighter Child Keepsake Stories. Those books are only a few dollars each, they are the complete stories, and are much easier to hold on to and thicker paper that doesn't tear so easily. I have already purchased two and plan to buy the rest. This book is just lacking so much in both amount of illustrations and narration, though I will give five stars to the illustrations that are present.

My son loves books and we read all the time. Looking through our extensive children's book collection I realized we didn't have any classic fairy tales. I went searching for a good collection and decided on this one. It is perfect! The illustrations are what you would expect from Mary Englebreit - charming and colorful - perfect for a children's book. He likes to find things "hidden" in the pictures. More importantly to me, the stories are a great length for children's short attention spans. My son is now 19 months and he always sits happily until we are finished. The scary parts are watered down to make it appropriate for young children. (e.g., the wolf lets Little Red Riding Hood and her grandma climb out after receiving a scolding from the wood cutter.) It is also a great collection of stories. This now goes in my basket of "must haves" for baby shower gifts. Love it!(stories include Jack and the Bean Stalk, Little Red Riding Hood, Puss in Boots, The Little Red Hen, The Emperor's New Clothes, The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The City Mouse and the County Mouse, The Gingerbread Boy, Hansel & Gretel, The Elves and The Shoemaker, and the Ugly Duckling)

I have enjoyed Mary Engelbreit's whimsical illustrations for many years, and have received a few MEInk gifts over the years. So, when I saw she had a nursery tales book out I had to see it. We checked it out from our local library and it immediately became a favorite of both my 2 and 4 year olds. My 2 year old would haul the book onto her lap (it's a big book so she was practically hidden underneath it) and look at the pictures for long stretches at a time by herself. My 4 year old loved to re-tell the stories to her sister, her stuffed animals, anyone who would listen. And both of our them loved to hear them read aloud. They each have their favorite tales, but never squabble about hearing any of them. It was their storytime pick every time. In fact, we checked it out of the library so many times that we finally decided to buy a copy for our own bookshelf. I like how well written then tales are with respect to their accessibility to young children and faithfulness to the originals. I've tried many different nursery tales collections, none of which really satisfied me. Many of them are too lengthy to hold the attention of young children, while others intended for a young audience are overly simplified so the language loses its charm. These tales are wonderfully told and will hold the

attention of young and old alike. Perfect in length for a quick storytime of only one tale, or a longer storytime of several read after each other. Illustrations appear on every page as well as 1 full-page illustration at the beginning of each tale and another full-page illustration depicting the climax of each tale. The pictures throughout illustrate the action of the story and move it along only in the charming and whimsical way only Mary Engelbreit can. The illustrations really support the text and make it especially easy for non-readers to follow along during read alouds. It is a beautiful and effective marriage of text and illustration, which is so important to children's story books, I think. My kids cherish it and we are making wonderful memories reading it together.

Fantastic classic fairy tales with wonderful illustrations.

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