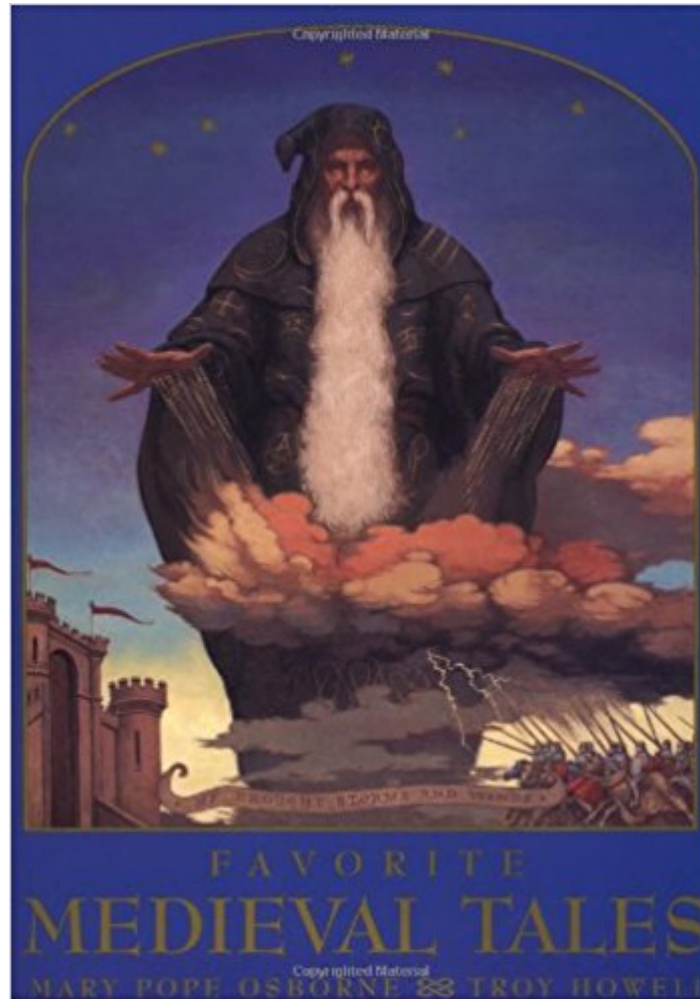




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# Favorite Medieval Tales



## Synopsis

In their fourth magnificent collaboration of the world's great stories, Mary Pope Osborne and Troy Howell present nine best-loved tales from the days of chivalry, honor, and enchantment. This collection contains nine treasured tales from medieval Europe--from the mysterious Celtic world of Finn MacCoul to the enchanted realm of King Arthur. Readers will meet the noble French hero Roland and the merry English outlaw Robin Hood. They will learn about the brutish chieftain Beowulf, the chivalrous knight Sir Gawain, and the brave young prince Hagen. And they will be entertained and enlightened by Marie de France's honorable Werewolf and Chaucer's venerable but clever-witted rooster, Chanticleer.

## Book Information

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Lexile Measure: 860L (What's this?)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks; 4.1.2002 edition (May 1, 2002)

Language: English

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Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #430,332 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #100 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Other #17230 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

## Customer Reviews

In a starred review, PW said, "This stylish collection will not only entertain readers but will also nurture a lively interest in history literature and language, and the way these forces intersect." Ages 8-12. (May) Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 4-9-This beautiful storybook is also an entrancing introduction to medieval art and literature, and to the development of the English language. Rather than attempting a potted life history, each tale presents a defining narrative for its hero: Finn MacCoul, Beowulf, King Arthur, Hagen, Roland, Marrok the Werewolf, Gawain, Robin Hood, and Chanticleer. Sometimes this incident is virtually all

there is (e.g., Marrok), but the informative notes do not always indicate when additional tales about the figure exist, as they do for most. The language of the retellings manages to be both dignified and lively, with just a hint of the archaic. The introduction notes that the chronological sequence of the tales also reflects the development of the English language. Howell has contributed detailed notes on the medieval elements and inspiration in his work from the elaborate borders to the compositions of the full-page, color illustrations and ornamental title pages. Strikingly handsome, this collection should appeal to a wide range of readers. Patricia Lothrop-Green, St. George's School, Newport, RI Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this collection of medieval tales to my 4-year-old daughter. Though the illustrations are beautiful, keep in mind that, for the young, this is a text-heavy book. The author completely won over the amateur linguist in me in her introduction when she stated that as she compiled these tales, an intriguing subtext emerged: the story of the development of the English language itself. In a bow to that subtext, she begins each story with a cover page that has a single sentence taken from an untranslated version of the tale, followed by the modern English translation of the sentence. Fascinating! I was also impressed that she managed to collect stories that represented so many subgenres of Medieval literature: epic, *lais*, etc. The stories are wonderful and well-written; this is a book that parents and kids will return to again and again. Other top picks: SanSouci's *Young Merlin*, *Young Arthur*, *Young Guinevere*, and *Young Lancelot* books, all beautifully illustrated and exciting; and James Baldwin's *Fifty Famous Stories Retold*, which, aside from being a page-turner, is a book that EVERYONE should read for the sake of cultural literacy.

I highly recommend this book for adults. It is a superb book for those on the "read and reread" path in building a foundation before pursuing the works in their more complex formats. Years ago I had the misfortune of reading *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* in old language. It was a disaster and embittering. I left the experience with an "allergy" to *Sir Gawain*, and without getting to know the gist of the story. I am healed thanks to this particular book. I was also delighted to come across the "Werewolf" as I hadn't heard about it. A book that can break down a block such as I had developed is a worthy one. I hope it heals another.

The reading level for this book is given as ages 9-12, but the fairytale-simplicity of the retelling of the stories makes this collection much more appropriate for the \*under 9\* age group. The stories are

sanitary enough to read to very young children. The part of the collection I found most useful for my 12 year old who is currently studying the Middle Ages, was the notes in the back of the book. "Notes on the Stories" tells the background and time period of each story and a brief bio of the author (when known). "Story Forms of Medieval Times", "Some Early Peoples of Western Europe", "Time Periods", "Words Related to Medieval Times", and "The Evolution of the English Language" are all very brief (total of 3 1/2 pages for all) but informative.

Excellent book, Great condition. We enjoyed reading it.

My son is frequently picking up this book and choosing a tale to read.

Great book!

Wonderfully adapted for young readers, the stories are distilled into short but accurate depictions. The pictures are well chosen, and the ancient stories titilate my kindergartener and first grader. Mrs. Osborne, we applaud you!

These stories are interesting and well-written. We didn't like this book as much as Mary Pope Osborne's books of Greek myths and Norse myths, but it was still interesting and I was at the age of 50 glad to FINALLY find out who Beowulf was!

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