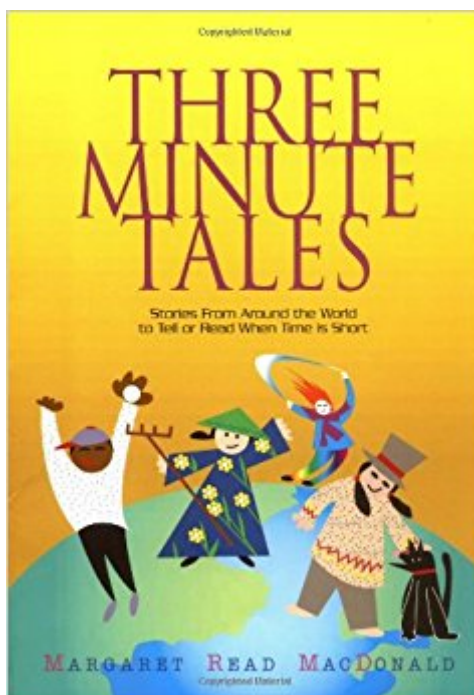


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# Three-Minute Tales



## Synopsis

Anyone who teaches, lead, or speaks in public has had the experience of needing to fill short amounts of time in order to hold the audience's attention. The challenge is familiar to Margaret Read MacDonald, who for thirty-five years told stories to preschoolers every week. Here are more than eighty simple, short, pithy tales for many occasions: holidays, museum tours, history or nature walks, public speaking, media appearances, school visits, curriculum boosters. These traditional tales come from China, west Africa, Mexico, Japan, Thailand, Turkey, Syria, Cuba, the Ukraine, India, eastern Europe, and the Jewish, native American, and African-American traditions.

## Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Lexile Measure: 590L (What's this?)

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: August House (December 15, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0874837294

ISBN-13: 978-0874837292

Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 0.5 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #523,251 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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[Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Country & Ethnic](#) #253

in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories](#)

## Customer Reviews

MacDonald has compiled more than 70 short, easy-to-learn tales that are ideal for beginning a program or filling in short lags that may occur during a performance. Some selections take as little as 30 seconds to tell. They come mainly from Asia, Europe, and the Americas, and are subdivided by the occasions for which they are best suited: tales to tell on a walk, scary tales, humorous tales, tales for the very young, participatory tales. A few are even provided in fingerplay form. A useful addition to professional and parenting collections. —Marlyn K. Beebe, City of Long Beach Public Library, CA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Easy to tell, easy to teach to children and adults, and easy to remember, the 80 very short tales in this global collection are for sharing in the classroom, library, and home and around the campfire. The stories range from chants and participation tales ("Did you feed my cow?") to scary ghost stories, and with each one, veteran storyteller and folklorist MacDonald includes a note in tiny print about the story's origins and connections and about where to find more like it. Many stories are from Asia, where MacDonald has worked, and from the U.S.; there's only one from Africa ("How to break a bad habit") but it's one of the best. The book design is spacious, with short lines that show the rhythm and pauses of the telling. The informal, highly practical suggestions for beginners make storytelling sound easy, including how to choose and rehearse a story and where and when to tell it. The fun here is not in punch lines or climactic moments but in the lively telling and interaction. Hazel Rochman

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Sometimes MacDonald hits it out of the ballpark with creative and memorable stories like Mabella the Clever, Kudu Break and Strength but those stories aren't in any of the minute tale books. I bought all of her minute tales books and none of them stood out to me as memorable.

This is without a doubt one of the nicest, most useful storytelling anthologies I have purchased. I immediately added *The Sun Sisters*; *The Story Not Told*, *The Song Not Sung*; and *One Word for Happiness* to my repertoire. Beginning storytellers will find lots of great material to help build their skills, while seasoned performers will be surprised to find both new stories as well as forgotten favorites to dust off and retell. This would also be an excellent source book for educators, trainers, librarians, speakers, parents, politicians and the clergy.

My grandson read it and recounted it to me and to his siblings and parents. He almost read the entire book in one sitting. I still plan to use it to practice my storytelling skills, but I found the surprise in my grandson's enthusiasm for the book.

Famous book. Famous matriarch of the storytelling world. This should be in the collection for what they are, good three minute tales for entertaining.

I read these to my children on vacation. Okay, except a couple of the quick stories were a bit morbid

Most of the stories just aren't very good. A big disappointment.

useful for my story telling with my children in school...it also provides tips for beginner story telling....the stories are sweet and short as per the title of the book...we just need to use our creativity by using puppets

GOOD EXAMPLES OF TIME LIMITATIONS WHEN WRITING SHORT TALES.

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