

First 100 Stories for Story Listening

Beniko Mason



I have been telling fairy tales and folktales from around the world in class as an English lesson since 1990. The combination of listening to stories and reading books has helped my students do well on tests without output or grammar studies. Story-Listening is so powerful that students improve rapidly in listening comprehension and acquire many words.

There are countless stories in the world, but I happen to like Grimm Brothers' household tales. Almost all stories start with, "Once upon a time..." "Once upon a time there was a rich king." "Once upon a time there were three brothers." "Once upon a time there was a soldier." They always start with an introduction of a main character.

These stories are very suitable for story-listening lessons in different ways. The stories have interesting content; they are written in rich language; there are many different situations, problems, and characters; and they have stood the test of time.

I have gathered here the first 100 easier stories for you to choose from to use for your classes. I will only give you the titles. You can download them from any sites that have the collection of Great Grimm Brothers' household tales.

These stories are not just for children. They deal with many different themes that children may not understand yet, such as deception, loyalty, and true love. Thus, story-listening is not just for children, but for adults also. Story-Listening can be used for any age and also at any levels of proficiency.

When we hear about Grimm Brothers' Tales we think of "The Wolf and the Seven Little Kids", "Little Red Ridinghood", or "Hensel and Gretel". We automatically think that they are for children. Not so. I have read and used most of the 200 tales and what I found was, that these tales are not for children but for adults. It is not because of their cruel scenes as some people say, but the human drama that the stories convey. The stories are very suitable to tell to adults. Because we can relate to the problems, hardships, and sorrows that the stories convey, we are drawn to the stories when we listen to them. Because we are drawn to them, we forget that we are listening to the target language. That is when subconscious language acquisition happens.

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The Story-Listening method is based on the Second Language Acquisition Theory (Krashen, 1981, 1982, 1985). Story Listening has not just been a good idea on impulse by an EFL teacher in Japan. This method has been field tested since 1990 by Beniko Mason (<http://beniko-mason.net>) and has been researched and tested by other researchers in the world.

The following are the 100 stories that I use for early stages of the program. My students are college students, but I have told these stories to junior and senior high school students by simplifying the words and sentences, but still using some of the rich language introduced in the original texts.

Students like stories so much that they look forward to coming to class, and sometimes they request a theme of the next story.

Just because a story is short, it does not mean it is easy to tell. The concept may have to be explained before the story. Reading many stories and imagining the students' reaction are parts of the fun of the preparation for SL lesson.

I have used the following page to download the copyright free texts:

- <http://www.grimmstories.com> (multi-lingual)
- <http://www.candlelightstories.com/Grimms/> (English)
- <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/19068> (English)
- <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/12250> (French)

Wishing you and your students stressfree classes,

Beniko Mason

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First 100 Stories for Story Listening

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- 001 The Frog King
002 Cat and Mouse in Partnership
003 Our Lady's Child
005 The wolf and the seven kids
009 The Twelve Brothers
011 The Brother and Sister
012 Rapunzel
014 The Three Spinners
016 The Three Snake-Leaves
017 The White Snake
022 The Riddle
024 Mother Hulda
025 The Seven Raven
026 Little Red Cap
027 The Bremen town Musicians
029 The Devil With the Three Golden Hair
031 The Girl Without Hands
033 The Three Languages
039 The Elves
The Elves and the Shoemaker
040 The Robber Bridegroom
044 Godfather Death
046 Fitcher's Bird
047 The Almond Tree
048 Old Sultan
049 The Six Swans
050 Sleeping Beauty
(Little Briar Rose)
051 Fundevogel (Bird-foundling)
052 King Thrushbeard
053 Snow-white
055 Rumpelstiltsken
056 Roland
057 The golden Bird
059 Frederick and Catherine
062 The Queen Bee
064 The Golden Goose
- 065 All-kinds-of-fur (Allerleirauh)
067 The Twelve Huntsmen
069 Jorinda and Joringel
077 Clever Grethel
078 The Old Man and His Grandson
080 The Death of the Little Hen
082 Gambling Hansl
085 The Gold-Children
091 The Gnome
092 The King of the Golden Mountain
093 Die Raven
094 The Peasant's Wise Daughter
099 The Spirit in the Glass Bottle
100 The Devil's Sooty Brother
101 Bearskin
103 Sweet Porridge
104 Wise Folks
105 Stories about Snakes
109 The Shroud
114 The Cunning Little Taylor
116 The Blue Light
117 The Wilful Child
120 The Three Apprentices
122 Donkey Cabbages
123 The Old Woman in the Wood
124 The Three Brothers
125 The Devil and His Grandmother
129 The Four Skilful Brothers
135 The White Bride and the Black One
142 Simeli Mountain
143 Going A-traveling
144 The Donkey
145 The Ungrateful Son
147 The Old Man Made Young Again
149 The Beam
150 The Old Beggar-Woman
152 The Shepherd Boy
- 153 The Star-Money
154 The Stolen Farthings
155 Brides on Their Trial
156 Odds and Ends
160 A Riddling Tale
161 Snow-White and Rose-Red
167 The Peasant in Heaven
169 The Hut in the Forest
170 Sahring Joy and Sorrow
174 The Owl
177 Death's Messengers
185 The Poor Boy in the Grave
186 The True Bride
189 The Peasant and the Devil
190 The Crumbs on the Table
192 The Master-thief
193 The Drummer
195 The Grave-Mound
196 Old Rinkrank
197 The Crystal Ball
198 Maid Maleen
199 The Boots of Buffalo-Leather
200 The Golden Key

Children's Legends

St. Joseph in the Forest

God's food

The Aged Mother

The Heavenly Wedding

****The underlined titles are short and sometimes easier than others but short does not necessarily mean easy.***

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Die 100 ersten Geschichten für Story Listening

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- 001 Der Froschkönig
002 Katze und Maus in Gesellschaft
003 Marienkind
005 Der Wolf und die sieben Geislein
009 Die zwölf Brüder
011 Brüderchen und Schwesterchen
012 Rapunzel
014 Die drei Spinnerinnen
016 Die drei Schlangenblätter
017 Die weiße Schlange
022 Das Rätsel
024 Frau Holle
025 Die sieben Raben
026 Rotkäppchen
027 Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten
029 Der Teufel mit den drei goldenen Haaren
031 Das Mädchen ohne Hände
033 Die drei Sprachen
039 Die Wichtelmänner (1. Märchen)
Die Wichtelmänner (2. Märchen)
040 Der Räuberbräutigam
044 Gevatter Tod (Der Pate Tod)
046 Fitchers Vogel
047 Von dem Wacholderbaum
048 Der alte Sultan
049 Die sechs Schwäne
050 Dornröschen
051 Fundevogel
052 König Drosselbart
053 Schneewittchen
055 Rumpelstilzchen
056 Der liebste Roland
057 Der goldene Vogel
059 Der Frieder und das Katherlieschen
062 Die Bienenkönigin
064 Die goldene Gans
065 Allerleirauh
067 Die zwölf Jäger
069 Jorinde and Joringel
077 Das kluge Gretel
078 Der alte Großvater und sein Enkel
080 Von dem Tode des Hühnchens
082 Der Spielhansl
085 Die Goldkinder
091 Das Erdmännchen
092 Der König vom goldenen Berg
093 Die Rabe
094 Die kluge Bauerntochter
099 Der Geist im Glas
100 Des Teufels rußiger Bruder
101 Der Bärenhäuter
103 Der süße Brei
104 Die klugen Leute
105 Märchen von der Unke
109 Das Totenhemdchen
114 Vom klugen Schneiderlein
116 Das blaue Licht
117 Das eigensinnige Kind
120 Die drei Handwerksburschen
122 Der Krautesel
123 Die Alte im Wald
124 Die drei Brüder
125 Der Teufel und seine Großmutter
129 Die vier kunstreichen Brüder
135 Die weiße und die schwarze Braut
142 Simeliberg
143 Auf Reisen gehen
144 Das Eselein
145 Der undankbare Sohn
147 Das junggeglühte Männlein
149 Der Hahnenbalken
150 Die alte Bettelfrau
152 Das Hirtenbüblein
153 Sterntaler
154 Der gestohlene Heller
155 Die Brautschau
156 Die Schlickerlinge
160 Rätselmärchen
161 Schneeweißchen und Rosenrot
167 Das Bürle im Himmel
169 Das Waldhaus
170 Lieb und Leid teilen
174 Die Eule
177 Die Boten des Todes
185 Der arme Junge im Grab
186 Die wahre Braut
189 Der Bauer und der Teufel
190 Die Brosamen auf dem Tisch
192 Der Meisterdieb
193 Der Trommler
195 Der Grabhügel
196 Oll Rinkrank
197 Die Kristallkugel
198 Jungfrau Maleen
199 Die Stiefel von Büffelleder
200 Der goldene Schlüssel

Kinderlegenden

Der heilige Joseph im Walde

Gottes Speise

Das alte Mütterchen

Die himmlische Hochzeit

***Die unterstrichenen Titel sind kürzer und manchmal leichter. kürzer heißt jedoch nicht immer leichter.**

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Les 100 premiers histoires pour Story Listening

Beniko Mason



- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 001 Le Roi-grenouille ou Henri-le-Ferré | 069 Jorinde et Joringel | 156 Les petits nœuds |
| 002 Chat et souris associés | 077 Margot-la-Malice | 160 Conte-devinette |
| 003 L'enfant de Marie | 078 Le Vieux Grand-Père et Son Petit-fils | 161 Blanche-Rose et Rose-Rouge |
| 005 Le loup et les sept chevreaux | 080 Mort de Poulette | 167 Le petit paysan au Ciel |
| 009 Les douze frères | 082 Le Jean Joueur | 169 La Maison forestière |
| 011 Frérot et sœurlette | 085 Les enfants d'or | 170 Partager le meilleur et le pire |
| 012 Raiponce | 091 Le Petit Gnôme | 174 La chouette |
| 014 Les trois fileuses | 092 Le Roi de la Montagne d'Or | 177 Les Messagers de la mort |
| 016 Les trois feuilles du serpent | 093 Le Corbeau | 185 Le Pauvre Gosse au tombeau |
| 017 Le serpent blanc | 094 L'Intelligente Fille du paysan | 186 La Véritable Fiancée |
| 022 | 099 L'esprit dans la bouteille | 189 Le paysan et le diable |
| 024 Dame Hiver (Dame Holle) | 100 Le Frère noirci du Diable | 190 Les miettes de pain sur la table |
| 025 Les sept corbeaux | 101 L'homme à la peau d'ours | 192 Le maître-voleur |
| 026 Le petit Chaperon Rouge | 103 La douce bouillie | 193 Le Tambour |
| 027 Les musiciens de Brême | 104 Les Gros Malins | 195 La tombe |
| 029 Les trois cheveux d'or du diable | 105 Le Conte du crapaud | 196 Le Vieux Cricrac |
| 031 La jeune fille sans mains | 109 Le petit linceul | 197 La Boule de cristal |
| 033 Les trois langages | 114 Le Malin Petit Tailleur | 198 Demoiselle Méline |
| 039 Les lutins (1 & 2) | 116 La lumière bleue | 199 Les bottes en cuir de buffle |
| 040 Le fiancé voleur | 117 L'Enfant difficile | 200 La Clef d'or |
| 044 La mort marraine | 120 Les Trois Compères ouvriers | |
| 046 L'oiseau d'ourdi | 122 L'Âne-salade | Légendes de l'enfance |
| 047 Le conte du genévrier | 123 La Vieille dans la forêt | Saint Joseph dans la forêt |
| 048 Le vieux Sultan | 124 Les trois frères | Nourriture céleste |
| 049 Les six frères cygnes | 125 Le diable et sa grand-mère | La Vieille Maman |
| 050 La belle au bois dormant | 129 Les Quatre Frères habiles | Le banquet céleste |
| 051 Dénichet | 142 Le Mont Chauve | |
| 052 Le Roi Barbabec | 143 Partir en voyage | |
| 053 Blanche-Neige | 144 Le petit âne | |
| 055 Outroupistache (Nain Tracassin) | 145 Le fils ingrat | |
| 056 Roland le Bien-aimé | 147 Le Petit Vieux rajeuni par le feu | |
| 057 L'Oiseau d'or | 149 La Paille et la poutre du coq | |
| 059 Le Frédé et sa Chattelise | 150 La Vieille Mendiante | |
| 062 La reine des abeilles | 152 Le petit pâtre | |
| 064 L'oe d'or | 153 Les ducats tombés du ciel | |
| 065 Toutes-Fourrures | 154 Le Sou volé | |
| 067 Les Douze Chasseurs | 155 Le choix d'une femme | |

Légendes de l'enfance

Saint Joseph dans la forêt

Nourriture céleste

La Vieille Maman

Le banquet céleste

***Les titres soulignés sont courts et condensés, mais « courts » ne signifie pas forcément « facile ».**

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Las 100 primeras historias para Story Listening

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- 001 El Rey Rana o Enrique el Férreo
002 El gato y el ratón hacen vida en común
003 La hija de la Virgen María
005 El lobo y la siete cabritillas
009 Los doce hermanos
011 Los dos hermanitos
012 Rapunzel
014 Las tres hilanderas
016 Las tres hojas de la serpiente
017 La serpiente blanca
022 El acertijo
024 Madre Nieve (Frau Holle)
025 Los siete cuervos
026 Caperucita Roja
027 Los músicos de Brema
029 Los tres pelos de oro del diablo
031 La doncella sin manos
033 Las tres lenguas
039 Los duendecillos (1 & 2)
040 La novia del bandolero
044 La Muerte Madrina
046 El pájaro del brujo
047 El enebro
048 El viejo Sultán
049 Los seis cisnes
050 La Bella Durmiente
051 Piñoncito
052 El rey Pico de Tordo
053 Blancanieves
055 El Enano Saltarín (Rumpelstiltskin)
056 El amadísimo Rolando
057 El pájaro de oro
059 Federico y Catalinita
062 La reina de las abejas
064 La oca de oro
065 Bestia peluda
067 Los doce cazadores
069 Yorinda y Yoringuel
077 La pícara cocinera
078 El abuelo y el nieto
080 La muerte de la gallinita
082 El jugador
085 Los niños de oro
091 El gnomo
092 El rey de la montaña de oro
093 El cuervo
094 La campesina prudente
099 El espíritu embotellado
100 El mugriento hermano del diablo
101 Piel de Oso
103 Gachas dulces
104 Gente lista
105 Cuentos del sapo
109 La camisita del muerto
114 El sastrecillo listo
116 La lámpara azul
117
120 Los tres operarios
122 La lechuga prodigiosa
123 La vieja del bosque
124 Los tres hermanos
125 El diablo y su abuela
129 Los cuatro hermanos ingeniosos
135 La novia blanca y la novia negra
142 Monte Simeli
143 Inconvenientes de correr mundo
144 El borriquillo
145 El hijo ingrato
147 El hombrecillo rejuvenecido
149 La viga
150 La vieja pordiosera
152 El zagalillo
153 El dinero llovido del cielo
154 Los ochavos robados
155 Elección de novia
156 Una muchacha hacendosa
160 Un cuento enigmático
161 Blancanieve y Rojaflor
167 El pobre campesino, en el cielo
169 La casa del bosque
170 Hay que compartir las penas y las alegrías
174 El búho
177 Los mensajeros de la muerte
185 El pobre niño en la tumba
186 La novia verdadera
189 El labrador y el diablo
190 Las migajas en la mesa
192 El rey de los ladrones
193 El tambor
195 La tumba
196 El viejo Rinkrank
197 La bola de cristal
198 La doncella Maleen
199 La bota de piel de búfalo
200 La llave de oro

Leyendas de los niños

San José en el bosque

El divino manjar

La viejecita

Las bodas celestiales

**Los títulos subrayados son más cortos y a veces más fáciles, aunque más corto no siempre significa más fácil.*

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