The origin of day and night
by Paula Ikuutaq Rumbolt
In a tale from Inuit folklore, a fox and a hare take turns bringing about the day and the night so each has time to search for food.

The shadow in the moon
by Christina Matula
Two young sisters celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival and listen to their Ah-ma tell the ancient tale of how the holiday began.

Pine and the winter sparrow
by Alexis York Lumbard
Cherokee legend says an act of kindness toward an injured bird earned pine trees the honor of staying green all winter.

Fox tails
by Amy Lowry
Four of Aesop’s fables are combined in this tale about three animal friends who outsmart a tricky fox.

The magic paintbrush
by M. J. York
Nib sets off on an adventure to escape a greedy king who would use his magical artistic talents for his own purposes.

Princess Sophie and the six swans
by Kim Jacobs
A princess must rescue her six brothers from the enchantment imposed on them by their wicked stepmother.

Momotaro (the peach boy)
by M. J. York
Found floating on the river inside a peach, Momotaro grows up and fights the terrible demons terrorizing his village.

Androcles and the lion
by Carl Sommer
Escaping slavery and befriending a lion, Androcles and the lion are recaptured, until their punishment becomes their freedom.

Nelly May has her say
by Cynthia C. DeFelice
Nelly May Nimble takes a housekeeping job with a lord who demands she use his silly language, until a fire breaks out.

Medio Pollito (half-chick)
by Amanda StJohn
Medio Pollito, born with one eye, one wing, and one foot, learns the value of helping others after setting out on his own.

Fables & Folklore
Recommended Picture Books

Nian, the Chinese New Year dragon
by Virginia Loh-Hagan
A young girl takes action when her village is threatened by a dragon, in a book that also explains the background of the Chinese New Year.

The tale of the tiger slippers
by Jan Brett
A Middle Eastern folktale finds a tiger unable to distance himself from the slippers that enabled his journey from humble origins to success.

A catfish tale
by Whitney Stewart
When Cajun fisherman Jacques encounters a magical wish-granting catfish, his wife, Jolie, wishes for many things, including a paddleboat and the title of Mardi Gras queen.

Coyote rides the sun
by Amanda StJohn
Coyote, in love with the Sun, can never catch him as he rides across the sky.

The boy from the dragon palace: a folktale from Japan
by Margaret Read MacDonald
A magical boy grants a poor flower-seller’s wishes until the ungrateful man grows tired of the boy’s unpleasant behavior and sends him away.
WHO IS KING?: TEN MAGICAL STORIES FROM AFRICA
by Beverley Naidoo
Animal tales from Africa include stories about a music-playing Tortoise, a hairless Hippo and a woman with a mouse child.

THE TIGER, THE BRAHMAN, AND THE JACKAL: AN INDIAN FOLKTALE
by M. J. York
A brahman Hindu saves a tiger from a trap, only for the tiger to threaten eating the man.

THE TORTOISE & THE HARE
by Jerry Pinkney
Retells the fable of the race between the tortoise and the hare, set in America's Southwest.

THE ROCK MAIDEN
by Natasha Yim
When her husband goes missing, a new mother pleads with Tin Hau, the patron goddess of fisherman, for help.

THE PRINCESS AND THE WARRIOR
by Duncan Tonatiuh
When the warrior Popoca returns to find his love deep asleep and unable to be awoken, he stays by her side just as he promised.

A BUCKET OF BLESSINGS
by Kabir Sehgal
Monkey and his friends search for water in their drought-stricken jungle before they remember that peacocks can perform rain dances.

THE BOY AT THE DIKE
by M. J. York
One child makes a difference and saves his village by plugging a hole in a dike with his finger.

THE GIRL WITH A BRAVE HEART
by Riòtah
After showing kindness to an old woman, Shiraz receives the gift of beauty. But her cruel stepsister's fate is less pleasant.

ISSUN BOSHI (ONE-INCH BOY)
by Nadia Higgins
Tiny but capable young Issun Boshi goes to Kyoto, where he proves himself a valuable servant to kind Lord Sanjo.

FIREBIRD
by Saviour Pirotta
When a Firebird is discovered stealing the king's golden apples, young Ivan befriends a wolf and a princess while questing to capture the creature.

ELEPHANT IN THE DARK
by Mina Javaherbin
Persian villagers try to figure out what strange animal in a dark barn has arrived from India.

THE CONTEST BETWEEN THE SUN AND THE WIND: AN AESOP'S FABLE
by Heather Forest
The sun and the wind test their strength by seeing which of them can cause a man to remove his coat.

CHILDREN OF THE DRAGON
by Sherry Garland
A collection of Vietnamese folktales with explanatory notes following each story.

THE TEENY-TINY WOMAN
by Paul Galdone
When a teeny-tiny woman finds a teeny-tiny bone in the teeny-tiny churchyard, she takes it home to boil for her supper.

THE LEGEND OF THE BEAVER'S TAIL
by Stephanie Shaw
Vain Beaver is proud of his silky tail, to the point where he alienates the woodland creatures with his boasting.

SISTER BEAR: A NORSE TALE
by Jane Yolen
Traveling with her bear to visit the King of Denmark, they discover a pack of trolls is about to cause trouble on Christmas Eve.