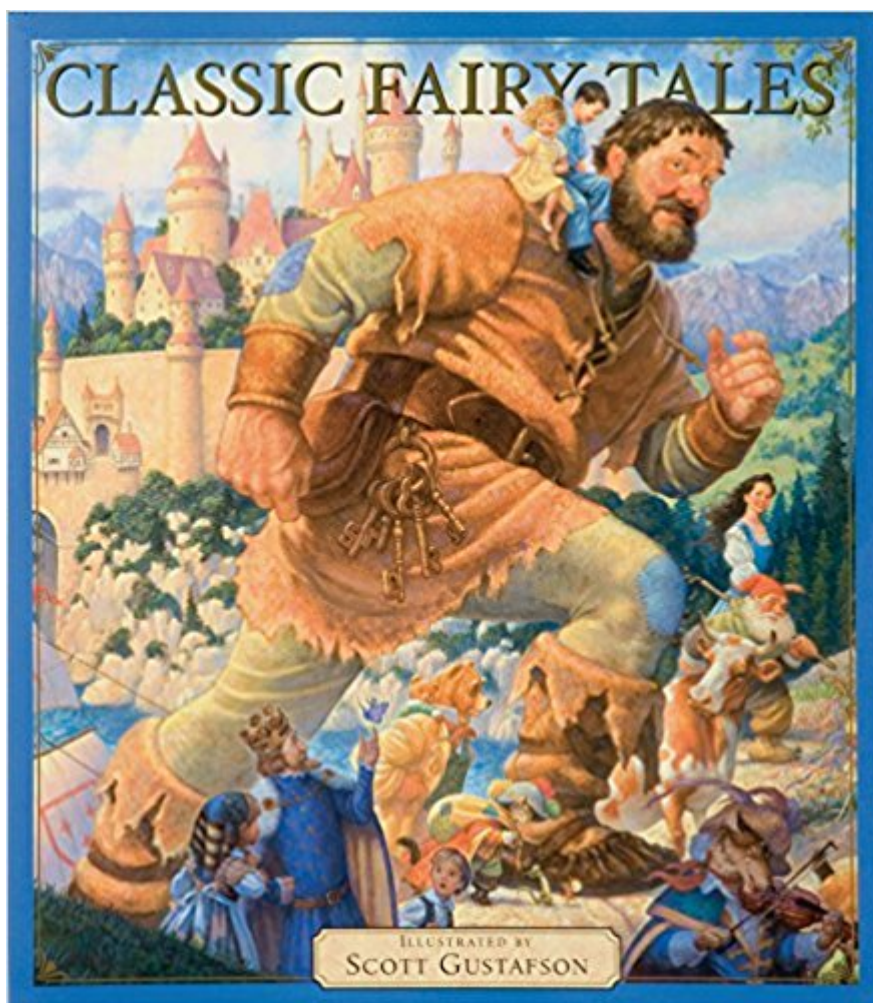


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# Classic Fairy Tales



## Synopsis

A lavishly illustrated, enchanting collection of 10 of the best-loved fairy tales, chosen and edited by the artist, who spent more than four years creating the seventy-five oil paintings, reproduced here in full color. Belongs on every child's bookshelf. Å Å

## Book Information

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Artisan (October 15, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1579656862

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Product Dimensions: 10.8 x 0.8 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 146 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #218,594 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #138 in Å Å Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Anthologies #741 in Å Å Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 6-Gustafson has selected 10 of the best-known tales to retell and illustrate: "Goldilocks," "Puss in Boots," "Hansel and Gretel," "Snow White," and the like. His luminous paintings-from spot art to full spreads-are carefully composed and rendered. The facial expressions and postures of humans and animals alike are full of life. The language of the retellings is adequate, but not inspired. All in all, this handsome, oversized volume is a good addition to libraries that need to replace or supplement their fairy-tale collections. Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Public Library, NY  
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Gr. 3-5. Gustafson uses 10 familiar folktales as vehicles for more than 70 elaborately detailed paintings that he acknowledges owe much to N.C. Wyeth, Arthur Rackham, and Normal Rockwell. The tales in the oversize volume are presented in toned down, nonviolent versions; the princess kisses the frog prince rather than throwing him against a wall, for instance, and "Cinderella" ends

amicably. "The Three Pigs" is the most altered; as neither of the first two pigs dies, and some of the dialogue is rhymed ("Ha, ha, old wolf, for a fool you've been taken. That butter churn was full of bacon!"). The illustrations, ranging from thumb-size vignettes to full-spread scenes, feature nearly photo-realistic figures clad in sumptuous court dress and posed with broadly emotive body language. Gustafson's art doesn't measure up to that of Paul Zelinsky or K. Y. Craft for intensity of feeling, but it does lack Michael Hague's occasionally overwrought sentimentality, and there's plenty to see in the easy-on-the-eyes views. John Peters

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I don't have kids, but I'm a sucker for illustrations and this and its companion volume 2 were in the Daily Deals today for \$1.99. First, the product description is for the two-volume set. Volume 1 includes only Snow White, Rumpelstiltskin, The Frog Prince, Little Red Riding Hood and Cinderella. It does not contain the story illustrated on the cover. Volume 1 is 70 pages, not 144. This is not due to variable font size, because it doesn't have that. These books are not available on e-ink devices, not surprising as they rely so heavily on color illustrations. BUT: They don't behave as Kindle books, more like comic books. They display only in 2-page landscape orientation. The text has no overall size selectability, but is instead embedded with popup windows which obscure some of the pictures when open. I sent this to an 8.9 inch Fire HD and needed to use the popups to read the text comfortably. The native text would be microscopic on a 6 or 7 inch screen. The pictures are not zoomable. That's the most fun of illustrated Kindle books on Fires and it's not available in this book. Several of the pictures take up the whole 2-page screen or wind through the text across both pages. If you want to curl up with the kiddies, you'll need to do it in front of the TV and mirror the book to the big screen in order to read and look at the pictures simultaneously. As other negative reviews have pointed out, the story details are not what you might remember. They are adaptations somewhere between original Grimm and Disney. In Little Red Riding Hood, both Grandma and Little Red are eaten by the wolf. When the hunter snips them out of the still-living, sleeping wolf, they emerge whole, only complaining that it was dark in there. Red fills the wolf with rocks and they sew him back up before he wakes and falls over dead from the weight of the stones. Grandma drinks the cider and feels better, Red vows to never disobey Mama again.

I would have loved to read this to my daughter, but the words appear over each other making it totally unreadable. It's like the font is wrong and there's negative spacing between the lines. I'm reading on a iPad and it doesn't let me change the font like other books do. Such a pity.

Great stories. Great for bedtime. Loved it for my boys.

The illustrations are very nice but the text paragraphs are "crammed" together when viewing on my iPad and the Kindle Cloud reader in Safari. When double-clicking to zoom the text it still is formatted with each line overlapping each other. As it's on sale at the moment and I'm really after the art, it's not a total lose and I'm hopeful the issues will be corrected with an update.

The pictures in this collection of 10 favorite tales are just wonderful and plentiful. Kids love a story that has something to look at every time you turn a page. Many double spreads here as well, and they are exquisitely detailed. All of the children have such endearing faces. Gustafson gives them just the right expression for the moment he's describing. The colors are vibrant and rich. Pages are large, paper is heavy quality. Very well done. Your kids will love it. And it will take you back to a happier time in your life. I read to my younger sister, my own kids, and now my granddaughters. It never gets old.

Was so very excited when I found this book while looking for additions to baby's library. It was the first book of Fairy Tales that I've run across to have some of the lesser known, but still beloved stories, included within their pages. I was so excited when I browsed through the table of contents and discovered among the stories was both Puss In Boots and Rumpelstiltskin (the later a favorite of mine as a child). I bought it up right away! So happy to now have an opportunity to share with baby some of my favorite stories from childhood :)

This book is gorgeously illustrated and very nice to hold in your hands...very big, with expansive illustrations. My only complaint is that some of the stories "run long," making them a bit tedious to read aloud. Thus far my 4 and almost-3 year olds are not interested in any of them except the three little pigs (the most run-on of all! \*groan\*), but hopefully they will enjoy all the stories when they are older.

Beautifully made, heirloom quality book. The pictures are bright and detailed and has many layers for enjoyment by young and old alike. The stories are familiar and eloquently portrayed. I bought this for my grandson's 1st birthday so maybe one day it will be handed down to his grandchildren.

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