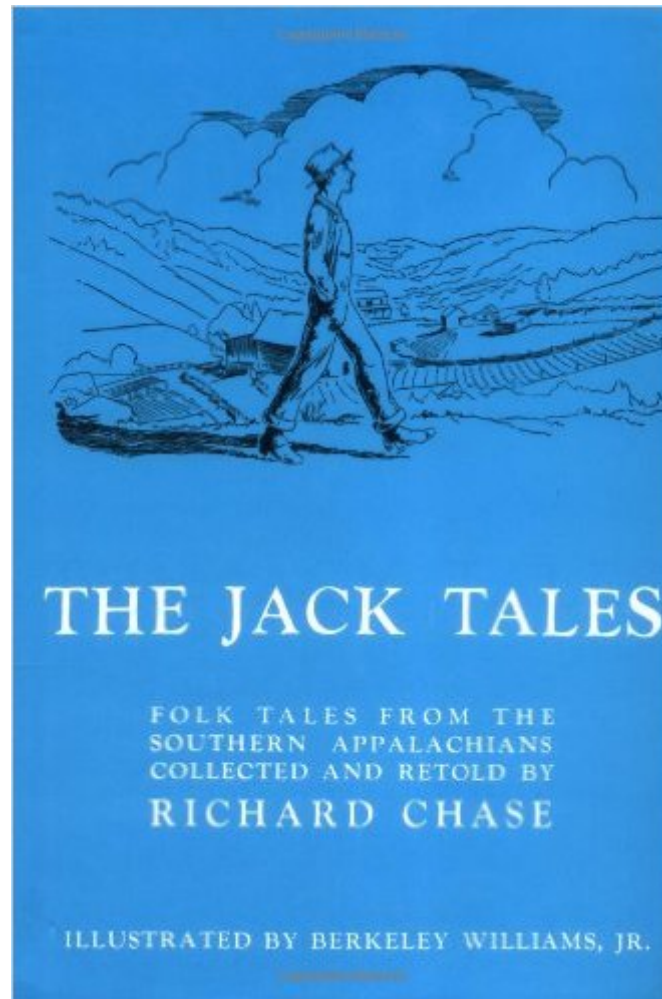


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# The Jack Tales: Folk Tales From The Southern Appalachians



## Synopsis

A collection of folk tales from the southern Appalachians that center on a single character, the irrepressible Jack.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 201 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Company; 50th Anniversary edition (September 9, 1943)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395066948

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Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 6.3 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (58 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #892,068 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > United States](#) #868 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#) #2892 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States](#)

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

My mother, who was from North Carolina with relatives in the Appalachians, read The Jack Tales to my brother and me before we started reading for ourselves. She got really tired of doing so, because we'd ask for them over and over. Fairy tales are the deep learning of childhood, and to hear these stories written the same way our older relatives spoke was wondrous. The stories themselves are a celebration of Jack the hero and Jack the Trickster, told with plenty of humour to keep things interesting and in a voice both authentically American and of universal appeal. I'm delighted to be able to get my hands on a copy - this is a book well worth reading and preserving for the next generation of avid readers.

I first heard the Jack Tales when I was in the fourth grade back in the 1960's. Our teacher would read us a chapter once a week. I had to look good and hard to find a copy for my daughters they have enjoyed hearing about Jack.

Jack's always gittin' into some find of fixin' and always gittin' outa it. He's a hillbilly that's not too bright; 'cept he always manages to outsmart his troubles. Like the time the four-headed giant and his mom want to eat little bitty Jack for supper after he had killed her three sons (each with several heads) which were about six times the size of a natural person. Look-a-here, you might say, how can uh ordinary boy whup so many giants? Well'm, he can't. (Ain't ye got no sense?) He outsmarts 'em. And it's a real howdy do!

The Creative Teacher: Activities for Language Arts (Grades 4 through 8 and Up)

When I was in elementary school, I had a teacher that would read from this book if the class behaved. I had all but forgotten them until I happed to see them in a recommended for you section. They are not the fairy tales of the Grimm brothers, but they are decidedly southern. The main character Jack uses his wits and bravado to outwit giants, magical creatures and even death. For a small boy growing up in a poor area, it stirred my imagination. Reading them now, they are not politically correct, but that I like that about them. Jack (the hero) always comes out on top, but never in a way in most would think or be proud. The books simply are what they are and that is good enough for me. Thanks to for whatever computer program that put this book on my list. Thanks for bringing back a forgotten piece of my childhood when the sum of my problems was catching the bus on time, doing my homework and chores and making friend who would last a lifetime.

Author has maintained the unique language of the Appalacian region. Wonderful old stories, exceptional drawings. I am a teacher and read to children and these stories are very popular, especially ages 7 to 12. Related to the English tradition of "Jack Tales".

When I was a camper at Camp Yonahnoka in Linville, NC, Richard Chase, the author of GRANDFATHER TALES and THE JACK TALES, would visit the camp and tell Jack tales to the campers from time to time. And always in that wonderful dialect he tries fairly successfully to capture in his books. He also introduced us to some early Blue Ridge Mountain folk toys - the "gee-haw whimmydiddle" being my favorite. It was a stick with notches cut into it and a simple two-bladed propeller afixed to the end with a small nail. When you rubbed the stick across the notches and said "Gee!", the propeller would spin to the left; when you called out "Haw!", the propeller would change course and spin to the right. The trick was to hold the rubbing stick in your left hand in such a way that when your index finger was in front of the stick when it rubbed the notches, the propeller would spin to the left; when you turned your wrist slightly so that the the

thumb and not the index finger was behind the stick as it rubbed the whimmydiddle, it would spin to the right. Chase showed my 10 year old self the secret while I sat on his lap during a bunkhouse cookout. When I became a camp counselor, I'd read half a story a night aloud to my campers at bedtime. (In my best Richard Chase voice, of course.) No finishing the story the next night unless they behaved themselves the rest of the evening. It always worked because they loved the stories.

It took me the longest time to remember the name of this book. I had read it years ago when I was growing up. Luckily, my fond memories of the stories from this book gave me the urge to seek it out on . Low and behold, I was able to find it. After reading it all these years later, I was surprised at how dark some of the stories are. But they are still pretty entertaining. I like the "southern" style storytelling of the book, and would recommend it to others no matter their age.

I found this book in my high school library decades ago and found it to be an entertaining read. One of my elementary aged child needed a fun book to read for school and I pointed him toward this book. He loved it and finished it fairly quickly. They have also requested I read stories from that book to them at bed time.

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