



Twenty Jataka Tales

Noor Inayat Khan (Retelling)

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These twenty tales have been drawn from famous legends concerning the former lives of the Buddha. Beloved by children and adults alike, they tell of people and animals moved to acts of sacrifice by the noble example of their fellow creatures. The flavor is often suggestive of Aesop, as are the lessons that are so subtly and keenly conveyed.

Presented in a simplified narrative, the tales maintain the magical and timeless beauty of their Far Eastern origins. The stories are ideal for reading to children, as they tell of highly dramatic adventures that are resolved by non-violent and compassionate means. Challenging circumstances bring forth courage and the capacity to love, opening the way to solutions against seemingly impossible odds.

This book will also be coveted for its exquisite illustrations by the well-known illustrator H. Willebeek Le Mair.

Twenty Jataka Tales Details

Date : Published May 1st 1985 by Inner Traditions (first published 1975)

ISBN : 9780892813230

Author : Noor Inayat Khan (Retelling)

Format : Paperback 152 pages

Genre : Religion, Buddhism, Childrens, Cultural, India, Fiction

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From Reader Review Twenty Jataka Tales for online ebook

Rishika Dhelia says

the clever monkey

Corby Lancaster says

Genre- Fiction / Book of Fables

Reading Level- grades 1-6

Topic and Themes- Fables and Moral lessons

Curricula Use- Read aloud

Social- Morals and life lessons

Literary Elements-Symbolism & metaphor. Book of a variety of tales in which everyone any age can learn from.

Summary- "Twenty Jataka Tales" is an excellent book of fables that have very important life lessons in them.

Shannon Amici says

Reading Level- 2-6

Genre- Fables/fiction

Topic- fables that end with a lesson learned

Social- moral lessons, sacrifice, love, equality

Curricula Use- read aloud

Literary elements-symbolism

Summary- Twenty tales that each teach a moral. Stories that are passed down.

Mckinley says

Akin to Aesop's fables. Very short tales about being kind and wise. Most involve animals instead of people.

Haleem says

Ok not a level with other similar collections of sufi or sadhu stories but still a good one to read to children.

Forrester says

Although I had not previously read this collection, some of these stories seemed familiar.

Liane says

Genre: Fables

Reading Level: Fluent

Topics & Themes: Legends of Buddha.

Curricular Use: Read aloud

Social: Self-sacrifice. Love for all creatures. Equality. Qualities of a leader/king. Moral theme of each story. Religion.

Literary Elements: Personification: most of the stories feature animal characters. Metaphor. Imagery.

Text & Pictures: Each story begins with a black and white illustration capturing a scene from the fable.

Additional Notes: Book written by a member of the last royal family of India to preserve the old stories. She was later imprisoned and killed by the Nazis in World War II.

Darlene says

genre - fiction

reading level - 3rd to 5th grade

topic and themes - these tales have come from famous Buddha legends

curricula use - read aloud

social - Moral issues, sacrifice

literary elements - metaphor, symbolism, irony, conflict between characters

text and pictures - each short story has it's own black and white picture to associate with it

Anna Bear says

I saw the Jataka Tales mentioned in an interview with Kristy Mitchell, a photographer and artist who published a book called Wonderland. I wanted to know more of the background and stories that inspired her work, so I went to find some. These are wonderful, short tales that are meant to express the many lives of Buddha. Buddha is reincarnated many times, and he can be a king, and animal, or even flowers in a garden, and these are some of the tales of his past lives.

Chris says

Noor Inayat Khan was extremely brave.

She was a hero.

She also, as is evidenced by this book, a talented writer. When she was killed by the Nazis, France and Britian each not only lost a patriot but the world lost an author.

It is impossible not to read this collection and not think of the political climate of Europe at the time the book came out (just prior to WW II) despite the elements of Buudism. Of the twenty tales, most deal with leadership. All deal with scarifice and/or morality. Most deal with the idea of service for the higher ideal. A reader can see ideas of good and just government (In some ways, "The Guilty Dogs" almost seems like a tale about the evils of any type of genocide). In some ways, the tales seem to offer a reason for why Khan volunteered for the SOE.

The style is wonderful, almost conversational and maternal (Khan was in the process of starting a children's newspaper when France was invaded). The stories, and the illustrations, are done in such a way that they are attractive to both child and adults. There are meant as lessons, but are not heavy handed and let the reader discover the moral.

Cherina says

Summary: This text is a collection of Indian tales. Each story teaches a moral by using the old stories past down from generation to generation.

Uses: read aloud (one story at a time over an extend period)

Literary Devices: metaphors, rhymes, symbolism

Social Issues: love, equality, service, self-sacrifice, being a kind ruler/leader, being obedient, other religions, different cultures' beliefs

Other: This is a great way to introduce other cultures' beliefs into the classroom. The stories provide a lot of

opportunity to have a deep discussion with children.

Loray says

4-8

fables

read alouds, independent reading

short stories

many different morals represented in the stories by the last princess of India

Lavinia says

These Indian tales are very intelligent and marvellous, with their own morals and sayings. I have been learning about Ancient India, and little Indian children are meant to be told them too. They are all very good stories about talking animals and amazing kings.

The author of this book, who told all the Indian tales for little children, was an Indian princess named Noor. With easy-to-read words and sentences ('and to you, my little ones'), these tales are the perfect ones for six-twelve-year-olds. Noor was a very brave princess, and in the Second World War she chose to be a spy, not a pretty little princess surrounded in luxury. The Nazis captured her and tortured her trying to get her to name things and tell details - but she never once said anything. Soon, she was killed. Her last word was 'Liberty'.

Laura says

A collection of short Aesop-esque legends of the former incarnations of the Buddha that relates tales of wisdom and kindness. Here he's a lion, kindly correcting a panicking hare who thinks the world is ending. There he's an stag convincing the king through his willingness to sacrifice himself for any of his fellow creature that all animals are worthy of respect. The tales are simple and fun & the morals subtle enough to compliment and not overpower the sweet nature of the book.

Suganya says

a nostalgic vibe....
