



Forest Tales from Far and Wide; Farmyard Tales from Far and Wide

Books Reviewed:

[Forest Tales from Far and Wide](#) [1]

Books Reviewed:

[Farmyard Tales from Far and Wide](#) [2]

Issue:

[111](#) [3]

Reviewer:

[Jill Bennett](#) [4]

Editorial Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

4

These two collections, each with seven stories from around the world largely featuring animals, are designed to be child and reader friendly. There is a pictorial index, the title given at the start of each story is in a large font size providing an opportunity for the reader to invite the listener to take part in the reading, and the text large and well-spaced enough to make reading aloud easy even for the less practised adult. Moran's illustrations too, have a strength of colour, form and line which catch and hold the attention.

Vermeulen's choice of stories has a common theme of sharing (or not) and the consequences thereof. Her theatrical background is in evidence in the numerous opportunities her tellings provide for audience participation and, in a school setting the book is rich in potential not only for noisy active dramatisation, but also for thoughtful reflective times including assemblies.

Cooling's selection, like its companion, includes the very familiar and the lesser known. This time the common thread is wisdom and foolishness; thus we have the clever Ukrainian wife who persuades her husband to make 'The Straw Ox' which makes them their fortune and the enchantingly silly goose whose obsession with footwear proves her undoing, as well as the ever popular 'Three Little Pigs'. Again a pleasure from cover to cover, not least for the pages of notes on the story sources and possible origins.

Running Order:

45

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Links:

- [1] <http://savfkn.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/forest-tales-from-far-and-wide>
- [2] <http://savfkn.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/farmyard-tales-from-far-and-wide>
- [3] <http://savfkn.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/111>
- [4] <http://savfkn.booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/jill-bennett>