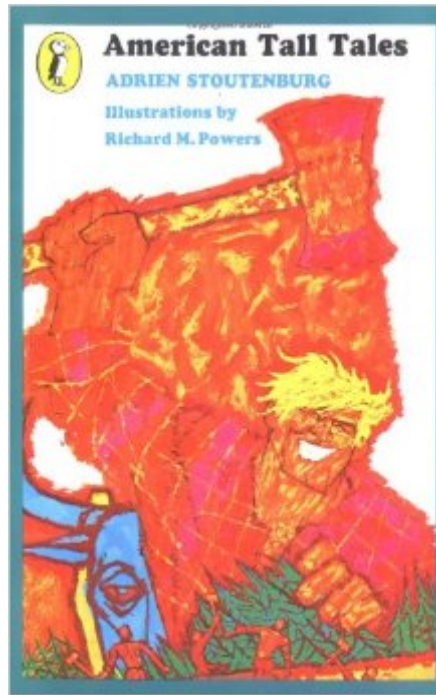


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# American Tall Tales (Puffin Books)



## Synopsis

Eight exciting classic American Tall Tales! This collection includes the famed stories of Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, Stormalong, Mike Fink, Davy Crockett, Johnny Appleseed, John Henry, and Joe Magarac, with evocative illustrations by Richard M. Powers.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 910L (What's this?)

Series: Puffin Books

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books (October 28, 1976)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140309284

ISBN-13: 978-0140309287

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #202,395 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #231 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#) #6659 in [Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure](#)

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

I am amazed at the variety of opinions on this book. These are "tall tales" from American Folklore. They are not biographical sketches. They are for children. Ideally as independent reading for grades 3-6. Super as a read-aloud for K to 3/4. The only drawbacks I could find were lack of color illustrations, which are increasingly important these days --- And perhaps a lack of a female folk hero. However the last point doesn't trouble me much. Pecos Bill and Davy Crockett had colorful wives in these tellings. Adrien Stoutenburg is a fine storyteller. Kids of the right age will love the antics and descriptions of these American myths. I prefer Stoutenburg's writing to Steven Kellogg's picture book versions of some of these tales. So...I would deduct 1/2 a star for illustration quality if I could...but I can't bring it down to 4 stars.

The mythologies of Egypt, Greece, Rome, the Vikings, and even England go back thousands of

years, so isn't the United States just too young for that sort of thing? Not so! In our relatively short history of just over 200 years, several "tall tales" have arisen in our culture. This book provides competent retellings of eight American folk heroes. They include some fictional characters like lumberjack Paul Bunyan, cowboy Pecos Bill, sea captain Alfred Bulltop Stormalong, and steelworker Joe Magarac; a few real individuals about whom many legends have sprung up, such as riverboat man Mike Fink, frontiersman Davy Crockett, and pioneer Johnny Appleseed (John Chapman); and one semi-historical person, railroad hammerman John Henry. Some of the stories are fairly familiar, while others are not so well known. Concerning John Henry, in *Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry, the Untold Story of an American Legend*, Scott Reynolds Nelson, an associate professor of history at the College of William and Mary, contends that the John Henry of the ballad was based on a real person, the 20-year-old New Jersey-born freeman, John William Henry (prisoner #497 in the Virginia penitentiary), who might have come to Virginia to work on the clean-up of the battlefields after the Civil War, was arrested and tried for burglary, but was among the many convicts released by the warden to private contractors to work as a leased laborer on the C&O Railway. A couple of common euphemisms (blast it, tarnation) occur, and there are some references to tobacco use and to dancing. However, these accounts are an important part of our society's heritage. One reader reviewer wrote, "I don't remember Johnny Appleseed being quite as silly," but please note that this isn't intended to be a biography of the actual John Chapman but a picture of Johnny Appleseed from American folklore.

I have had this book since I was home-schooled in the 5th grade (1997-1998), and I can remember how, even then, I was able to get right into it without pausing once... and this is coming from someone who isn't much of a reader! Honestly, I think this collection is really entertaining, despite how some of the descriptions of the characters and events could sometimes drag on, but that is to be expected at times. Plus, I found this to be a great way to kill some time when my power was knocked out by the Blizzard of February 2013. It only proved to me that stuff like this is still a great read, now being 26 (27 in less than a week). Just goes to show how timeless great literature really can be.

A Great book about American tall tales. My children absolutely love this book. Stories are hilariously written. Definitely recommend. Excellent!

Stoutenberg competently retells the familiar stories of Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, Stormalong, Mike

Fink, Davy Crockett, Johnny Applesed, John Henry, and Joe Magarac in a way that stresses the common tall tale elements and should be appealing to upper-elementary school readers. Useful in schools when balanced with some of the more recent and sprightlier stories featuring heroines.

This may be a good book for Middle School students. I was looking for one for a 7 year old. I could not find one suitable for him. This was the closest one. It may need more stars if read by an older child.

Great read for my young boys! They are really enjoying the folklore aspect in this literature. It is fun to watch them process the exaggeration.

This book is very interesting and has many favorite tales. From Davy Crocket to Paul Bunion, to Pacos Bill. This book is sure to have your favorite American hero.

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