

Medieval Tales

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Just who was Robin Hood? What did William Tell do that was so special? Why is Joan of Arc so famous?

Author Lorna Czarnota presents medieval tales that answer these questions and many more in a highly entertaining format. Czarnota offers solid historical background for each story so that young readers have a framework to enhance the significance of each story.

As they explore these action packed stories, young readers will be able to imagine themselves pulling Excalibur from the lake, untying the Gordian Knot, or fighting with Roland and the Frankish army. These adventurous stories will teach readers the importance of courage, resourcefulness and respect.

'Each chapter includes a "tips" section, a history of the story, and a pronunciation guide. The final section describes the role of the storyteller in medieval times and includes a chapter on how to look and sound like one. The author tells readers how to tailor the story to the audience ... [T]his is a helpful guide. There is a good glossary of medieval terms and comprehensive source notes.' -School Library Journal

Lorna MacDonald Czarnota Bio:

An award-winning storyteller and humanitarian, Lorna has been telling stories professionally since 1985. She performs and presents in schools, libraries, museums, festivals and conferences, runaway shelters, detention centers, residential treatment facilities, theaters and community venues, among others. Her work includes traditional and original stories, occasionally with music and songs for all ages.

Lorna specializes in mentoring at-risk youth and their families through story. She was nominated for United Way and Univera Health Community Hero Award and named Hopevale Incorporated's Volunteer of the Year.

Lorna holds a certificate in trauma counseling. Her other specialties are identity building in communities following disaster and personal trauma, empowerment for abused women, imagination playtime, historical portrayals and role-play, and Scottish tales. Lorna is a keynote speaker, workshop leader, artist, historian, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Creative Studies for Young Children, as well as a Masters in Special Education. Lorna is the founder and Executive Director of Crossroads Story Center, Inc. a not-for-profit reaching at-risk youth.

Gr 3-6-A great book for kids who are interested in storytelling. It has simple versions of many medieval tales arranged by country: from England, "Robin Hood"; from Switzerland, "William Tell"; from France, "Joan of Arc"; and from Scotland, Robert Bruce. (It is somewhat disconcerting that the more common appellation Robert the Bruce is not used). There are tales of Beowulf and of Saladin, and lesser-known ones such as the story of Duke Lech of Poland. Each of the selections is about a page in length, short enough to learn easily. Each

chapter includes a "tips" section, a history of the story, and a pronunciation guide. The final section describes the role of the storyteller in medieval times and includes a chapter on how to look and sound like one. The author tells readers how to tailor the story to the audience, but she does not mention that it need not be memorized and repeated verbatim. One of the first rules in most storytelling classes is that the tellers should become comfortable with the material and make it their own. Apart from that, this is a helpful guide. There is a good glossary of medieval terms and comprehensive source notes.-Marlyn K. Roberts, Torrance Public Library, CA

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Other Books

Two Medieval Tales.

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