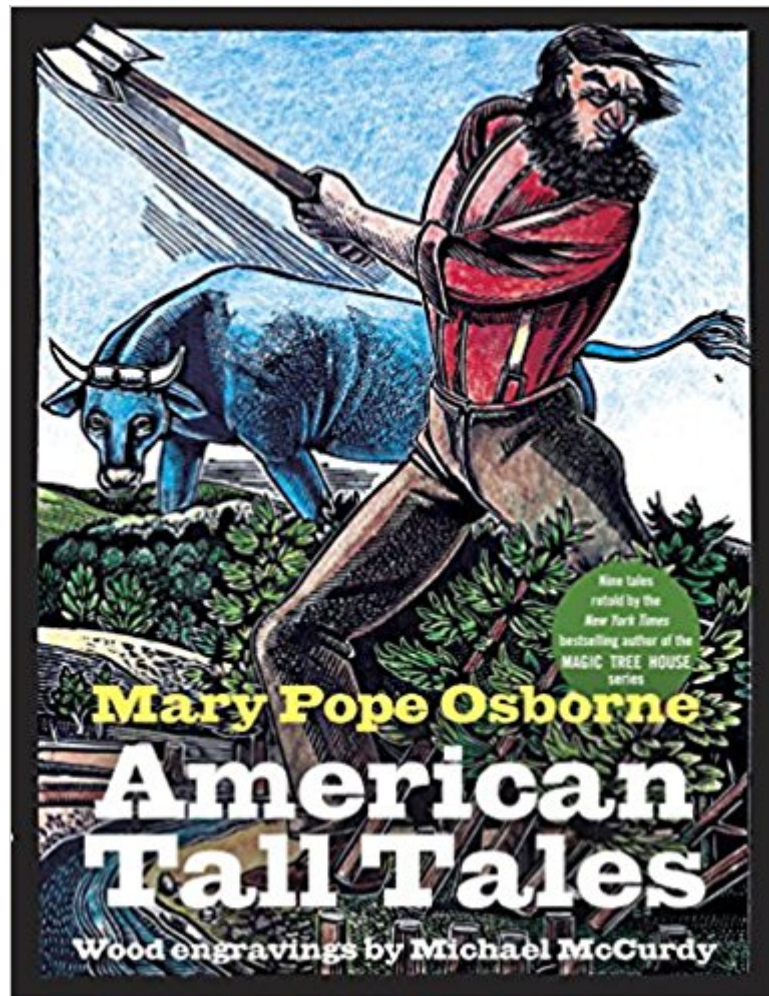




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# American Tall Tales



## Synopsis

The perfect addition to every family's home library and just right for sharing aloud, American Tall Tales introduces readers to America's first folk heroes in nine wildly exaggerated and downright funny stories. Here are Paul Bunyan, that king-sized lumberjack who could fell ten white pines with a single swing; John Henry, with his mighty hammer; Mose, old New York's biggest, bravest fireman; Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind, who could outgrin, outsnort, outrun, outlift, outsneeze, outsleep, outlie any varmint; and other uniquely American characters, together in one superb collection. In the tradition of the original nineteenth-century storytellers, Mary Pope Osborne compiles, edits, and adds her own two cents worth and also supplies fascinating historical headnotes. Michael McCurdy's robust colored wood engravings recall an earlier time, perfectly capturing all the vitality of the men and women who carved a new country out of the North American wilderness.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0970 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 115 pages

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers; Reissue edition (September 24, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679800891

ISBN-13: 978-0679800897

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.6 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 41 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #29,436 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural #32 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Anthologies #63 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Folklore & Mythology

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

American folk heroes of the 19th century spring to life in these splendidly retold sagas. Osborne's reputation as a gifted raconteur ( Favorite Greek Myths ; Beauty and the Beast ) is reaffirmed in this

compendium, which retells the legends of familiar figures (Davy Crockett, Paul Bunyan, Johnny Appleseed, Pecos Bill), as well as lesser known personalities, such as Crockett's fictional wife Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind, a composite character shaped by tales of various real-life women. Also chronicled are heroes hailing from places other than the backwoods, including Stormalong, a giant sailor who as a baby was washed onto a Cape Cod beach by a tidal wave, and Mose, a New York City fireman immortalized in an 1848 Broadway play. As tantalizing as Osborne's storytelling are McCurdy's ( The Owl-Scatterer ) elaborate, full-color wood engravings, which in their robust stylization dramatically render the grandeur of these engrossing yarns. Ages 6-up. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 3-6-- This strikingly handsome, oversized volume presents nine all-American figures whose overblown exploits take them from coast to coast and through all manner of occupations and preoccupations. Osborne has chosen familiar fictitious characters--Pecos Bill, Paul Bunyan, Febold Feboldson--and actual people, such as Johnny Appleseed and Davy Crockett, and relates episodes that stress the individuals' human weaknesses as well as strengths. She has melded several legendary characters into a single heroine, Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind, who more than holds her own in such grand company. The rip-roaring action, broad humor, and colorful language of the convention are all here, but the violence is kept to a minimum and the laughs aren't at anyone's expense, except perhaps the subjects, who feel rather foolish on occasion. McCurdy's intricate wood engravings tinted with watercolor equal their tall task. He sets these larger-than-life folk on majestic landscapes brimming with energy, rich with wildlife and local color. The author's thoughtful introduction and notes round out this superlative offering. It's "the whole steamboat!" --Luann Toth, School Library JournalCopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

One tall tale was made up and is not the quality of old classic America Tall Tales. The stories are a bit long and big-worded for 6-7 year olds, but would be appreciated by 10 year olds.

I bought this book for my 2nd grade class to go along with our Westward Expansion/Tall Tales study, and the kids love this book! Students always choose this book for their self-selected reading time. My class loves Osborne's Magic Tree House series and finds it a real treat to read another type of book from her.

Love the book

this is a gorgeous book! a great reminder of my childhood stories and exciting to share with young grandchildren. Illustrations are awesome!!!

My son and I laugh and laugh over many of these quaint stories of American Tall Tales and legends. We purchased the book for BoyScouts tall tales study. The book is large and has delightful illustrations throughout. The fanciful yet simple language in the stories is delightful and easy to read and understand even for the youngest of children being read to by their parents. A bit of American Wilderness.

Varying collection of tall tales. Used it for my 5th graders to access Common Core standards by boosting a curriculum-mandated tall tale to a compare/contrast assignments using these tales. The tall tales are a good length for the students to read and discuss on their own. I also recommend it for 4th grade teachers when they investigate the different American regions. Large (but not huge) text makes it good for copying to use w/ the students

I bought this book for a Creative Writing Assignment I am doing with a class of 5th graders. I read them one of the stories and then asked them to write their own versions, using one of the characters from several of the other stories. These stories, re-imagined by Mary Pope Osborne are written in such a way that keeps any age of reader interested. Accompanied by wonderful wood-etched drawings care of Michael McCurdy, it allows a child, who has very little understanding of the way things worked before planes and cars, to get a feel for our early American times and the way these larger than life characters lived.

Great book! The author has a great way of bringing your imagination to life.

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