

African Folktales

Nunn, Jessie Alford. (1969). African Folk Tales. (Illustrated by Ernest Crichlow). New York: Funk & Wagnalls.

The Miracle is the story of a woman who has no children but with patience and perseverance she is magically granted two lizards that turn into her children. Eventually she finds a husband and they live happily ever after.

The Hare and the Widow is the story of a hare that loves honey and tricks a widow into giving him some while he allows her to be injured because of his actions.

Cinderella elements found in The Miracle:

1. The heroine is patient and good-natured.
2. Magical events change animals into humans (i.e. rat becomes the carriage driver, two lizards become footmen).
3. There is a 'they lived happily ever after' ending.

The Gingerbread Man elements found in The Miracle:

1. Lonely heroine desires a child.
2. Heroine treats non-humans as her children.

Jack and the Bean Stalk elements found in The Miracle:

1. Finds magical plants.
2. The setting is desolate and hard for the characters to survive.

Little Red Riding Hood elements found in The Hare and The Widow:

1. The villain attempts to trick the victim to obtain what he desires.
2. The villain desires to obtain food.
3. The villain is able to exaggerate the truth.

Goldilocks And The Three Bears elements found in The Hare and The Widow:

1. Humans interacting with animals.
2. Goldilocks trespasses into forbidden territory.

Tortoise and the Hare elements found in The Hare and The Widow:

1. The villain in the story is a hare.
2. The hare is lazy and is looking for an easy way out.
3. The hare tricks the victim with false claims.