CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

A Wonder-Book for Girls and Boys

Nathaniel Hawthorne · *1851 · original English text*

Tanglewood, one fine autumnal morning, was assembled a merry party of little folks, all ready for a ramble. Hawthorne's Wonder-Book retells Greek stories for girls and boys, in a Berkshire frame, and it is a complete collection of those retellings, not the later Tanglewood Tales.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What happens to the old Greek stories when they are told to a merry party of little folks at Tanglewood, and how should this first collection be kept distinct from the later Tanglewood Tales?

"Tanglewood, one fine autumnal morning, was assembled a merry party of little folks,"

The introduction, the opening

The hosted text is A Wonder-Book for Girls and Boys (1851, PG #32242), complete as Hawthorne's first collection of Greek retellings for children, told in a Tanglewood frame. The opening is exact, including "one fine autumnal morning" and "a merry party of little folks." The tales include The Gorgon's Head, The Golden Touch, The Paradise of Children, The Three Golden Apples, The Miraculous Pitcher, and The Chimaera. Tanglewood Tales is a later, separate book on this site, not a chapter of this one. Excellent for a wide younger and middle band. Quote this typography.

KEY CHARACTERS

the merry party of little folks
The Tanglewood children, assembled one fine autumnal morning, for whom the tales are told.

Eustace Bright, the young teller
The college student of the frame who retells the Greek stories to the children.

Perseus, Midas, and the early figures
The company of the first retellings, in Hawthorne's names and tone.

the later heroes of the six
The figures of the apples, the pitcher, and the Chimaera, who complete this volume.

ONE FINE AUTUMNAL MORNING

> *"Tanglewood, one fine autumnal morning, was assembled a merry party of little folks,"*
>
> The introduction

Grades 3–6

Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A Merry Party of Little Folks

THE TANGLEWOOD INTRODUCTION

Tanglewood, one fine autumnal morning, was assembled a merry party of little folks, all ready for a ramble. The book begins as a walk and a telling, not as a schoolroom list of myths.

- The opening is exact in both witnesses, including 'autumnal' and 'little folks.'
- The frame of Tanglewood is part of the book, not a disposable preface.
- Excellent for a wide younger and middle band.

> *"Tanglewood, one fine autumnal morning, was assembled a merry party of little folks,"*
>
> The introduction

02

Gorgon, Gold, and a Lost Paradise

THE EARLY TALES

The Gorgon's Head, The Golden Touch, and The Paradise of Children (Hawthorne's Pandora) are the first retellings. Keep them distinct, and keep Hawthorne's names and tone, not a later schoolbook's.

- These are retellings for girls and boys, not literal translations of Hesiod or Ovid.
- The Paradise of Children is Hawthorne's name and shaping of the Pandora story.
- Teach them as this book tells them.

03

Apples, a Pitcher, and the Chimaera

THE LATER TALES OF THIS VOLUME

The Three Golden Apples, The Miraculous Pitcher, and The Chimaera complete the six. The collection ends here; Tanglewood Tales is another book.

- Six retellings, complete in this Wonder-Book.
- Do not import the later Tanglewood Tales into this map.
- A wide younger and middle band can hear these with help.

04

Hawthorne's 1851 Collection

THE HOSTED FILE

PG #32242 and the site EPUB are this complete Wonder-Book. Quote stretches that appear in both.

- Complete as A Wonder-Book for Girls and Boys.
- A separate book from Tanglewood Tales.
- For a wide younger and middle band.

A Telling in the Berkshires | Old Stories for Children | A Merry Party | Wonder | A First Collection

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 3–6

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2. Tanglewood Tales is a later, separate book on this site, not a chapter of this one. These are retellings for girls and boys, not literal translations of Hesiod or Ovid. Excellent for a wide younger and middle band.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.