



Cross-Cultural Childhood Tales

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Introduction

Our initial project was geared towards finding fairy tales from Dartmouth students from around the world.

Plot Twist: That did not happen.

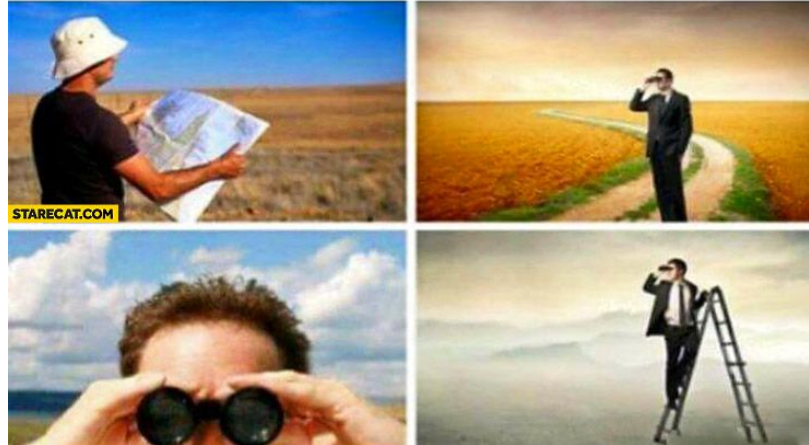
Method

- Took advantage of the diverse international student population at Dartmouth.
- Gathered folklore (fairy tales, myths, legends, fable, etc.) across varying cultures.
- Recorded both the native language and the English version of stories.

Motivation

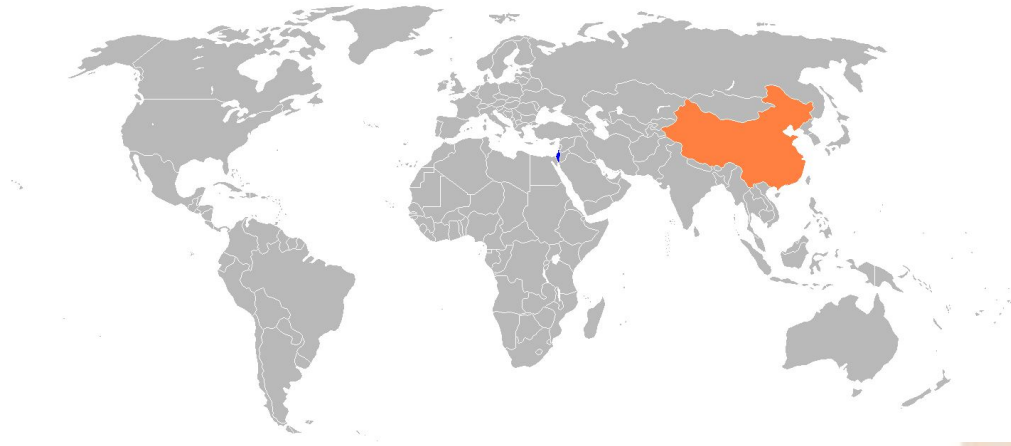
Me trying to find the motivation to finish this semester

1. This project was mandatory.
2. We found this topic super interesting.



Lord Ye's Love of the Dragon

- Lord Ye is a young man who really likes dragons. His house is decorated by dragons all over. A real dragon hears about this and is deeply moved. He wants to visit Lord Ye and be friends with him.
- But when the real dragon comes to visit, Lord Ye is terrified and runs away as fast as he can.





The Legend of Las Pinas City

- A ungrateful/lazy girl does not listen to her mother.
- The mother accidentally curses her daughter to have a thousand eyes and the daughter turns into pineapple. She took care of the pineapple (daughter) and more started to grow.
- This is how the city of Las Pinas got its name.



Fairytale of Lon Po Po

“In the olden days in China, there lived a mother and her three daughters.”

One day the mother decides that she wanted to leave the village, and so she left her three daughters at home.

At night, someone came knocking on the door, and when the three girls answered a voice cried, “It’s your grandma. Can I come in?”



As soon as the three girls opened the door, the wolf blew out all the candles, claiming that it was because her eyesight was bad and so she couldn't look at the light.

At night, when the three sisters went to sleep, the older sister felt something like wolf fur, and she knew that something was wrong. She devised a plan to trick the wolf to go outside and she told her sisters.





The three sisters told the wolf that the tree outside had magic ginkgo nuts. They all went outside and the three sisters told the wolf to wait below the tree while they climbed the tree to get some for the wolf. Of course the wolf would not say no to this offer.



And so the children climbed up the tree where there were a lot of these magic ginkgo nuts and shook the tree as hard as they could so that all the ginkgo nuts fell on the wolf and killed him.

Sarah's Willow

- Two girls play under a magical willow tree
- Willow's existence is threatened
- New willow is planted for future generations

Informant: personal connection to the tale; she also grew up playing under a willow tree.

Interpretation: it's important to stay true to your roots.



Summary of Findings

- Varies from **different genres**
- Told during childhood by parents/teachers for **educational purposes**
- Contains **a moral** that tries to influence children
- Usually **short and utilizes simple language**
- Usually **easy to understand**
- Exhibits **multiple existence**

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Thank you!