



Monthly Booklist

February 2007

Proverbs of the world.*

Chinese Proverbs by Ruthann Lum McCunn, illus. by Hu Yong Yi. (1987)

This collection of 50 sayings features an introduction explaining their history and significance, Mandarin characters, and whimsical illustrations.

Enduring Wisdom by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, illus. by Synthia Saint James. (2003)

This collection of Native American sayings in English translation spans centuries and tribes. All sources are provided in detailed endnotes.

Kibbitzers and Fools: Tales My Zayda Told Me by Simms Taback. (2005)

This is actually a book of Yiddish stories (English, with some Yiddish words thrown in), but each one ends with a saying. The endpapers are also filled with witty sayings.

Many Ideas Open the Way by Randy Snook. (2003)

Proverbs from the Hmong culture, written in Hmong and English, are illustrated by vibrant photographs of Hmong people in traditional dress.

Mi Primer Libro De Dichos by Ralfka Gonzalez and Ana Ruiz. (2002)

These proverbs are printed in Spanish and English, with bright, folk-style paintings.

The Night Has Ears: African Proverbs by Ashley Bryan. (1999)

26 sayings from a wide range of African cultures including Shona, Zulu, Yoruba, and Krahn. Bryan's colorful pictures help clarify meaning and bring the words to life.

Refranes: Spanish Sayings by Alejandra Longo, illus. by Daniel Chaskielberg. (2005)

A collection of 15 Spanish proverbs from Latin American and Caribbean cultures. The meaning of each is explained using both text and cartoon-like illustrations.

Tigers, Frogs, and Rice Cakes by Daniel D. Holt, illus. by Soma Han Stickler (1999)

These 20 *sok-dam*, or folk sayings, are given in both English and Korean. An appendix explains the proverbs in greater detail and groups them into categories: Character, Cooperation and Accomplishment, and Eating.

To Swim in Our Own Pond by Ngoc-Dung Tran, illus. by Xuan-Quang Dang (1998)

22 Vietnamese proverbs are paired with familiar Western equivalents. The original Vietnamese language version is given pride of place at the top of each page.

* With thanks to Shen's Books, <http://www.shens.com>. Age recommendations excluded from this list because most books of proverbs are flexible enough to be used creatively with children of all ages.