



The Caucus Race



Websites for Storytellers

Martha Scott (aka The Dodo)

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the **Caucus-Race**. As the new column editor, I'll be your virtual tour guide for the next several issues of *The Looking Glass*. What is a caucus-race? See the Dodo's explanation in the previous issue. But as the Dodo says to Alice, "the best way to explain it is to do it." So here we go...

There are all sorts of storytelling sites in cyberspace. Let's start our tour with [Doug Lipman's home page](#). Doug is a professional storyteller and storytelling coach. His site promotes his own storytelling courses, books, and tapes, but also includes some great bibliographies of storytelling resources and nuts-and-bolts articles on finding, adapting, and telling stories. The Dodo was ever so pleased to find Doug's article, "[In Search of the Folktale](#)", which explains how to use a type index to find versions of a folktale. The Dodo also recommends "Recent Storytelling Titles" by Janice Del Negro, editor of [The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books](#). Look in the [BCCB Homepage Archive for August's Big Picture](#), the compelling "[Thoughts on Traditional Literature and Storytelling in Libraries](#)", also by Janice. News flash: the BCCB plans to publish the *Bulletin Storytelling Review* in early 1998. This compendium of reviews will include more than 200 recommended storytelling audio and video tapes produced from 1990 to 1996.

Another important stop on our tour is the [Tejas Storytelling Association's Storytelling Home Page](#). Webmaster and storyteller/puppeteer Jim Maroon offers articles, information on storytelling organizations, festivals and resources as well as even more links to related sites. There's also information on the storytelling listserv [Storytell](#). This is a very active list. (The Dodo found it fascinating, but -- alas -- was overwhelmed by the number of posts.) Check out the online version of the **Texas Teller Newsletter**, where you'll find articles such as "How About a Ghost Story?" and "Women in West African Folklore".

Let's not forget the stories themselves. There are lots of online story sources. D. K. Brown's [Children's Literature Web Guide](#) (one of our favourite sites) has a good list of links as does **The Norwegian Association of Storytelling**. Mythology buffs will revel in **Myths and Legends** and [Encyclopedia Mythica](#), an online reference source with over 3,600 articles on mythology-related subjects. Or try **Tales of Wonder**, an electronic archive of folk and fairy tales from around the world.

Three outstanding scholarly sites archive and provide hypertext links between different versions of a single tale. [The Little Red Riding Hood Project](#) features 16 early English-language versions of *Little Red Riding Hood*; [The Cinderella Project](#) has a dozen versions of *Cinderella*. Texts and images are drawn from the [de Grummond Children's Literature Research Collection](#) at the University of Southern Mississippi. Read the texts and view the images either "horizontally", that is, one version at a time, in normal reading mode; or "vertically", one episode at a time through each different version. You can click through different versions to compare a particular incident in the story -- a paradigm shift worthy of Alice herself.

The third site is **Kay Vandergrift's Snow White**, where you can find 36 versions ranging from the Brothers Grimm to a 1996 picture book. There are plenty of cultural variants, such as Eric Kimmel's Rimona of the Flashing Sword: A North African Tale. Kay also provides extensive background material with sections on "The Teaching of Snow White" and "Issues in the Study of Snow White", as well as bibliographies and a long list of links.

The race is over. It's time to go home. *The Looking Glass* (and the Dodo) live in Toronto, so we'll drop in on [The Storytellers School of Toronto](#) to end the tour. Although still under construction, this site



is worth watching. The handy [Storytellers Directory for Ontario](#) and list of Storytelling Groups in Ontario are designed for local folk, while tellers anywhere can enjoy the School's news and views.

Your affectionate friend, The Dodo
