Some versions of easy to learn world folktales in picture books are at your library listed by name of the author look for the 398.2 section in the Children’s Room

Title (Country) Author

Mrs. Chicken and Crocodile (Africa/ Liberia) Won-Ldy Paye
The Gingerbread Man ( US) Aylesworth
Juan Bobo ( Puerto Rico) Bernier-Grand
One Grain of Rice ( India) Demi
Liang And the Magic Paint Brush (China) Demi
Sody Salleratus ( US) Davis
Martina, The Beautiful Cockroach (Cuba, Persia) Deedy
The Magic Gourd ( Ghana) Baba Wagué Diakité
Hatseller and the Monkeys ( Africa/ Mali) Baba Wagué Diakité
Glass Slipper, Gold Sandals ( Asia, Africa, Europe, Americas) Fleischman
Grandmother Spider Brings the Sun (Native American) Keam
Tunjur! Tunjur! Tunjur! ( Palestinian) MacDonald
Conejito ( Central America) MacDonald
Five-minute tales - Two Frogs (Russian) MacDonald
Rough Faced Girl (French/Native American) Martin
Jabuti the Tortoise ( Brazil) McDermott
Dona Flor ( Mexico) Mora
Kate and the Beanstalk (England) Osborne
The Lion and the Mouse (Aesop) Pinkney
Tops and Bottoms ( US- African American) Stevens
Joseph Had An Overcoat - The Tailor ( Yiddish) Taback
Two of Everything ( China) Toy- Hong
A Big Spooky House ( US/African-American) Washington
The Banza ( Haitaiain) Wolkstein
The Three Wishes ( Germany ) Zemach or Sims
I Climbed Up the Apple tree (chant)
I climbed up the apple tree and All the apples
fell on me Apple pudding, apple pie - Did you
ever tell a lie?

Pass an object around while we say this rhyme. The person holding it when the rhyme ends gets
to tell a story about themselves - in 1 minute or so. We guess if it is TRUE (hold up one finger) FALSE
(crossed fingers) MIX (true and false- hold up two fingers in a peace sign). Repeat as needed. VARIATION: once you get
started let people volunteer. OR pick a theme for stories.

Two Truths and a Lie
Think of three statements you can make about yourself. One is false the others are true. Or one is true 2 are false [some people find this easier] say all three to a group and then have them guess which are true/false. Reveal to us which one(s) is(are) true and tell us the story behind the truth. Variation: tell the story about any one of the three statements.

Towns & Counties
Pick a category of nouns - Hide key word/s in stories of any length. The words are broken up into syllables. Teams of two create minute long stories and then tell the story to the group, in 2 parts with a syllable hidden in each part. The other players must guess what the hidden word is. Any category will work. Geography is fun. But it is best to narrow the subject - city names or countries or bodies of water, etc. The first syllable in the first half of story and second is in second. Have more tellers for multi-syllabic sprees. Example -- I called my boss to say I'd be late. He yelled "Hey, you get in here soon. I've got a ton of work. " = Boston

SOME OTHER WAYS TO PLAY WITH STORIES:
Tell the story to someone who didn't hear it, yet. Do this before you forget your favorite parts. Even if you do forget something ? Just make up a new part. Then you have a new story !
Imagine a new ending. A story with a completely or different new ending is, a new story. Think of different ways to end the story you heard. Or? Change one of the characters from good to bad, girl to boy, or vice versa. How does the story change? Have fun!
Draw some pictures. How did you imagine the characters in the story ? Make paper plate masks of your favorite characters. Or Have each person draw his or her favorite part of the story. Put all the drawings together, from beginning to end. Add any parts that were missing. Or, use chalk to draw the story on the sidewalk.