

## ENGL 362 RBSC Assignment:

### *The Doré Gallery – Gustave Doré*

**Published:** London, 1870. Cassel, Peter and Galpin.

**Call Number:** NE650.D646 O44 1870

**Permalink:** <http://resolve.library.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/catsearch?bid=1839855>

I chose this text because Gustave Doré is my favorite illustrator and one of my favorite artists. Whether illustrating *The Bible* or fairy tales, Doré approaches each illustration with a dramatic eye and incredible attention to detail. This compilation of images is one of my favorites, as it is a very large book, and therefore contains Doré's detailed illustrations in a format worthy of deep studying and appreciation.

Although RBSC did not possess Doré's illustrated editions of Perrault's *Contes des Fées* or *Fables a la Fontaine*, many of these illustrations are included in the *Doré Gallery*. These are among my favorites. Doré's illustration for "The Wolf Turned Shepherd," included in the collection, is among his most charismatic and shows his abilities as a visual storyteller. There is a lot of humor in this illustration. The wolf, with his outstretched tongue and wide eyes, turns away from a single sheep that stands outside of the pack. Although the sheep isn't anthropomorphized in any way, the wolf is, nervously hiding his true appearance behind the costume of a shepherd.

The collection also features Doré's illustration of "Little Red Riding Hood," thematically and comically similar. Little Red's concerned expression in comparison to the Wolf's malevolent gaze is honest to how one might actually react if they saw a wolf in human clothes, and is perfectly fitting in whimsy and humor to the tale's absurdity.



***The Were-Wolf – Clemence Housman, illustrated by Laurence Housman*****Published:** 1986 (location unknown)**Call number:** PR10.S5 H6 1896 W4**Permalink:** <http://resolve.library.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/catsearch?bid=1774687>

For sake of continuity, I decided to follow the images of wolves in the *Doré Gallery* with one of my favorite imaginings of a were-wolf that I have ever seen. I have a soft spot for horror creatures, so upon mention of *The Were-Wolf* I had to take a look. Although I found the binding to be lackluster, I was not disappointed by what was inside; the images were wonderfully bizarre, featuring a were-wolf that looks more like a person in a wolf suit than the muscular wolf-headed creature we in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century are so used to. The illustrations, black and white, consistently emphasize the were-wolf. Whereas all the other characters are shown wearing dark clothes, the were-wolf's fur is stark white, making them stand out against near every background.

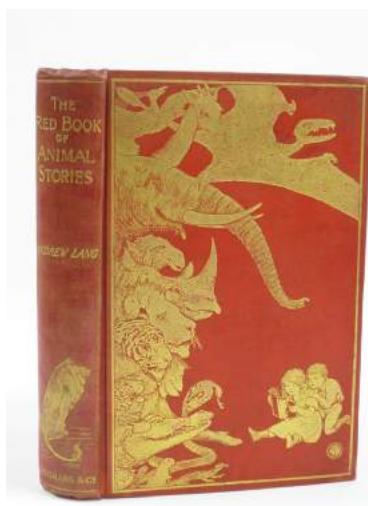
As someone who writes for film in their free time, I am frequently searching for unique visual depictions of creatures in other mediums than movies. This book is on my list primarily because I found this depiction of a well-known creature so unique, inspiring by the very fact of its deviance from my culturally established expectations of what a were-wolf should look like.



***The Red Book of Animal Stories – Andrew Lang, illustrated by Henry Justice Ford*****Published:** London, 1899. Longmans, Green.**Call Number:** PZ6 1899 L354**Permalink:** <http://resolve.library.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/catsearch?bid=54543>

This book is one of the many editions edited by Andrew Lang. It was difficult choosing only one collection by Lang for this assignment, as he was very prolific and his collections cover a lot of tales that I enjoy. This book contained various fables and folkloric tales featuring animals. I very much enjoyed the binding of this *Red Book*. The cover is bright red, detailed with golden images of all sorts of different animals. My enjoyment at this level was purely nostalgic, looking like the sorts of old books that had been handed down to me when I was young. The images inside were also nice, but my primary motive for choosing it was that it contained a child-friendly adaptation of *Beowulf*, complete with illustrations.

As I've learned in another course this term, *Beowulf* was popular in Victorian academic circles. This was one of my reasons for choosing it, as it seems to evidence this popularity. I primarily chose this book because of the writing and images. First, I found it very interesting that it was written for children to enjoy. *Beowulf* is so frequently cited as boring by my colleagues due to the language. This book shows that when simplified, the story is accessible and of potential interest to even children. I found the images interesting because the original text is very vague about the appearance of the creatures, so to see another's vision of Grendel's mother and the dragon was quite enjoyable.



***Stories from the Faerie Queene – Mary MacLoed, illustrated by A.G. Walker***

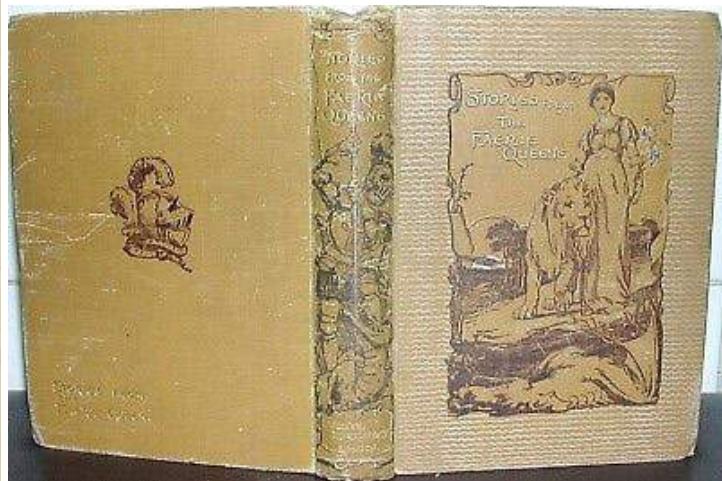
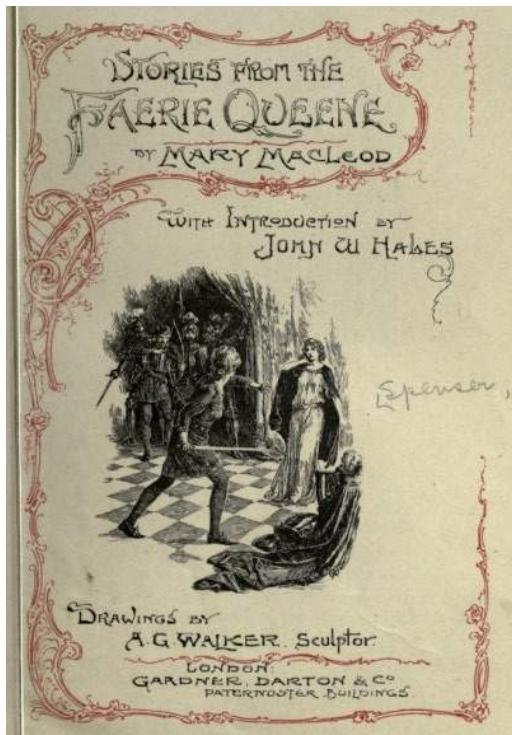
**Published:** London, 1900. Gardner, Darton.

**Call Number:** PZ6 1900 M434

**Permalink:** <http://resolve.library.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/catsearch?bid=205522>

I chose this for reasons similar to why I chose the previous entry. I very much enjoy the idea of adapting literary classics for children, and this is exactly that. Like *Beowulf*, *The Faerie Queene*, features elements like knights and dragons that would appeal to children. In the introduction, John W. Hales states that the adaptation is for “young persons … [and] adults, who, not from the lack of ability, but because they shrink from little effort, suffer the loss of such high and refined literary pleasure as the perusal of Spenser’s masterpiece can certainly give” (vii). I find this line funny because it is slightly mean and strangely pointed.

Beyond my simple enjoyment of the idea behind the text, I also found the images to be magnetic in their three-dimensionality. The book features numerous romantic depictions of knights doing good deeds and fighting dragons, which are fun. The spine too, which features an image of brawling knights, would look lovely on a shelf.



***Dot and Tot of Merryland – L. Frank Baum, illustrated by W. W. Denslow*****Published:** Indianapolis, 1901. Bobbs-Merrill Co.**Call Number:** PZ6 1901 B395**Permalink:** <http://resolve.library.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/catsearch?bid=198566>

I chose this book because my grandmother owns many original copies of the Oz books that were given to her by her mother. I have enjoyed many of the Oz books but have never read this one and thought that it sounded very interesting. I've always enjoyed W. W. Denslow's illustrations in the Oz books, and this edition has very nice colored ones. Whereas many of the books I've looked at and that we've studied have been black and white, these are vibrantly colored, large, and very expressive.

This book was primarily chosen because of nostalgia, but it is one I'd want in my collection. I feel that a lot of my enjoyment in RBSC came from being able to look through books that significantly predate my existence, and it was cool to find something that one of my ancestors might've had.

