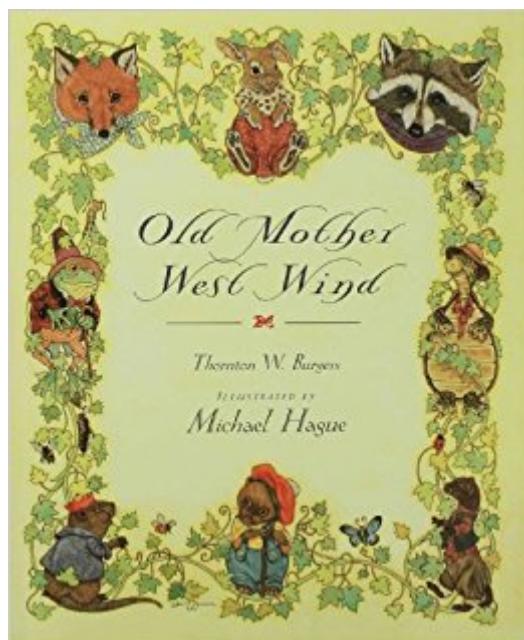


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# Old Mother West Wind



## **Synopsis**

Perfect for gift-giving--a classic illustrated by Michael Hague, in a beautifully redesigned edition. Thornton W. Burgess said that imagination was "the birthright of every child." His Old Mother West Wind stories, first published in 1910, have worked their magic on generations of children.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR); 1st edition (1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0805072381

ISBN-13: 978-0805072389

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.6 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 87 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,574,150 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Collections #743 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Anthologies #6558 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Classics

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

"Aylesworth's buoyant, rhythmic verse provides inspiration for a wondrous evolution of Gammell's style.... Sheer delight for eyes, ears, and funny-bones."--Kirkus Reviews, pointer

Michael Hague has illustrated some of the best-loved works of children's literature, including *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *The Teddy Bears' Picnic*. About his work, Michael Hague says, "I have always wanted to be a book illustrator. Books are what got me interested in the field in the first place. I try to infuse my illustrations with the same spirit that the author of the story produced in my imagination. I strive to create something from an empty canvas that becomes a whole 'other world' that people can visit for a while and totally believe in." Mr. Hague lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with his wife Kathleen.

(This review is for the "Centennial Anniversary Edition" published by Dover) This is probably the most nicely printed edition of Thornton W. Burgess' work currently in print. Yes, all the original

illustrations in the Little, Brown first editions of 1910 and 1911 are there, and they are full-size. They are not shiny like the originals, which were printed on art paper and tipped in (individually glued to the bound text pages). These are printed right on the text stock. It's pretty good text stock but does not compare to the art paper of a century ago. Also, since the reverse sides are printed with text, you cannot avoid seeing shadows of the text when viewing the illustrations. Get the originals if you can, but otherwise this is a nice substitute. This was Burgess' very first published book, and it is not his best work. The animal behavior described is often not as naturalistic as in his later books. These stories were originally written to be read to the author's 4yo son, and they appeal mainly to very young children. For older kids, a much better introduction to Burgess is "Tommy and the Wishing Stone". Two quibbles with the book's introduction: First, the introduction mentions Burgess' "as-yet-uncounted magazine short stories". That is not exactly true. Michael W. Dowhan wrote a meticulously thorough annotated bibliography of them in his "Thornton W. Burgess, Harrison Cady: A Book, Magazine, and Newspaper Bibliography" of 1990. He doesn't give a count except to say that there are nearly 900, but counting them right in the book would be short work. Second, introduction says "Dover Publications is helping to make more and more Burgess books available to the public very year. All are carefully reproduced from the original first editions." It isn't true that all of Dover's Burgess books are reproduced from the original first editions. Only a few have the illustrations from the first editions. Several have the illustrations from the 1940s & 1950s Grosset & Dunlap editions. Most have bad copies of one or the other set of illustrations by hack artists; those copies have none of the charm of the originals.

Wonderful. I am reading it to my granddaughter. The last time I read it was as a child and I loved the stories. I did not realize that the rhythm and repetition was so delightful (Old mother west wind, merry little breezes) much like the Iliad (rosy fingered dawn). Reading them aloud is great if you are lucky enough to have a child to read to, I highly recommend it.

I'm so glad I found these adorable stories! My kids (and I) love them! They're the perfect length for when you only have time for one, but it still leaves your kids satisfied. The language is perfect, not dummed down (like some other kids' books), a little old fashioned (consider the time they were written), but still understandable. I got them on Kindle for free, which is an added bonus, and will be reading all his other stories when we're done with 'Old Mother West Wind.'

Thornton W. Burgess' Old Mother West Wind books were standard in my family of origin. I

remember my Daddy reading them to me, and I read them to my own son. Now I have the supreme pleasure of reading them to his daughter. I believe that my love of animals and all things natural was born and nurtured through these stories, and now it's just wonderful to see my granddaughter's awakening love of the same through the same medium. These stories are timeless, and if I live long enough, I hope to read them to my great grandchildren!

Had never heard of these. My book-loving 5- and 3- year old boys enjoy the stories, though I'll say they're nothing too exciting. I like that most are short enough to read to them in just a few minutes. We skip around. Many stories have an accompanying illustration, but some do not.

Thornton Burgess does a wonderful job bringing nature to children in creative and interesting ways. Just a terrific collection and I have every one

Have such great memories of reading this series when I was young. Wanted to buy copies of my favorites to share with my grandchildren.

My grandmother read these stories to all of her grandchildren, of which I was one. I read them to my children and grandchildren and my granddaughter is now reading them to her little ones. Each story uses animal characters to teach children good morals to live by in a fun and interesting way. These books were written when my grandmother was a child and there's a reason why they have been reprinted over all these years. I recommend them highly. Great gifts to parents of children old enough to understand each story.

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