Here are just a few choices for secular Christmas and Hanukkah tales in various collections. These have few, if any, religious references, which can be omitted without changing the story for telling in public schools. Also, there are numerous tales set in wintertime, such as the Norwegian *The Boy and the North Wind*, which does not mention Christmas, but could have the bread/cookies be changed to Christmas cookies/Christmas rolls; or the story “Salt the Puddin” could be a meal for Christmas visitors. Consider a holiday touch if it does not alter the tale.

**Some Christmas Tales:**

Bedell, J.M. *The Story of Gierlaug* and *Hildur, Queen of the Elves* in *Hildur, Queen of the Elves and Other Icelandic Legends*, Interlink Books, 2007. Also in *Scandinavian Folk and Fairy Tales* edited by Claire Booss.


De Bosschere, Jean & Morris, M. *The Rich Woman and the Poor Woman* in *Christmas Tales of Flanders*. Dover, 1972. Variants of this tale are found in many other sources as well.


Grimm, Jacob & Wilhlem. *The Elves* aka *The Elves and the Shoemaker* (any Grimm collection.)


Karas, Sheryl. *The Two Pinecones* (Finland), *Silver Fir Cones* (Germany), and *When your Canary Sings* (Germany) in *The Solstice Evergreen: History, folklore and Origins of the Christmas Tree*. Asian Pub. 1991.


Lunge-Larsen, Lise. *The White Cat in the Dovre Mountain* in *The Troll With No Heart in His Body and Other Tales of Trolls, from Norway*. Houghton Mifflin Co. 1999. (Also in other Scandinavian collections.)
TRADITIONAL TALES FOR DECEMBER - continued compiled by Karen Culver, Jeffco Spellbinders


Michael, Maurice & Pamela. **The Christmas Present** in *German Folk and Fairy Tales*. Frederick Muller, 1963.


Sawyer, Ruth. **The Voyage of the Wee Red Cap** in *The Long Christmas*. The Viking Press, 1941.


**Some Hanukkah Tales:**


