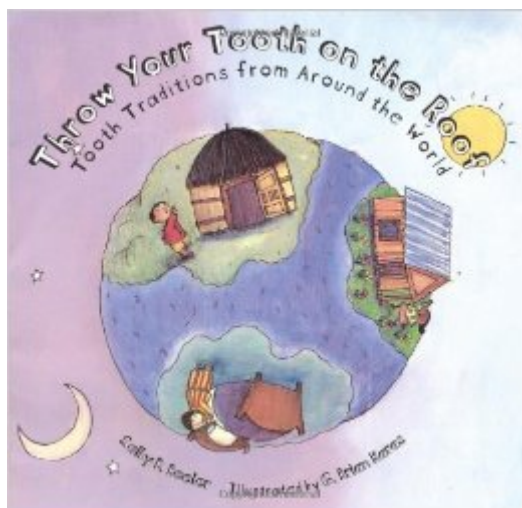


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# Throw Your Tooth On The Roof: Tooth Traditions From Around The World



## Synopsis

What do you do when you lose a tooth? Do you put it under your pillow and wait for the tooth fairy? Not if you live in Botswana! In Botswana, children throw their teeth onto the roof. In Afghanistan they drop their teeth down mouse holes, and in Egypt they fling their teeth at the sun! Travel around the world and discover the surprising things children do when they lose a tooth. Selby B. Beeler spent years collecting traditions from every corner of the globe for this whimsical book, and illustrator G. Brian Karas adds to the fun, filling every page with humorous detail. He perfectly captures the excitement and pride that children experience when a tooth falls out. This title has been selected as a Common Core Text Exemplar (Grades 2-3, Informational Texts)

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (September 24, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618152385

ISBN-13: 978-0618152384

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 9.8 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (72 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #23,200 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#7 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Cultural Studies > Customs, Traditions, Anthropology](#) [#470 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths](#) [#1875 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Even though this book was written primarily for children, as a folklorist I found it most enjoyable and discovered so many fascinating traditions that are not recorded in any folklore archives. Here every single continent is represented and we learn how children of different nationalities dispose of their lost milk tooth. Of course, it is only to be expected that a few obscure examples have not been included. For instance, there is no reference to the old Cornish custom by which "children's first teeth are burnt to prevent dog's teeth or 'snaggles' - irregular teeth coming in their stead" (M.A.

Courtney "Folklore and Legends of Cornwall", 1890, rep. 1989, pp. 156-7). Moreover, there is no mention of the Maltese custom of burying the tooth in a flower pot so that the new tooth (like the plant in the pot) will emerge (Pullicino, J.C. "Studies in Maltese Folklore", Malta Univ. Press, 1976, rep.1992, p.245). Yet there are so many fascinating examples, most of which were unknown to me. I was pleasantly surprised to see the Greek custom of throwing the milk tooth onto the roof ( a custom I was interested to learn is also practised in Korea and Taiwan). Infact, in Greece the throwing of the tooth onto the roof is accompanied by the reciting of a little rhyme which can be loosely translated as follows: 'Take sow my tooth and give me an iron one so that I can chew rusks'. In some regions of Greece, it is a mouse not a sow which is invoked. Therefore I was interested to see how the mouse also features in several parallel traditions throughout the world. For instance, we learn that Spanish children believe that the mouse Ratoncito Perez will substitute the tooth under the pillow for money or sweets(candies) as will his French counterpart La Petite Souris. Some peoples wrap their teeth in various materials for different reasons. Children of other nations bury their teeth ( e.g. Filipino children to make a wish). Yet in Turkey it is parents, not children who bury the tooth. Thai and Vietnames children dispose of their teeth in different ways, depending on whether it is an upper or lower tooth. The custom of Tajikistan reminded me of Greek mythology since the 'sown' teeth 'grow up to be warriors'. There are so many more interesting examples and it would be a shame for me to divulge more of them here. It is better to have access to all the examples by buying a copy of this book. I can guarantee that both you and your children will thoroughly enjoy it!

We found this book in our dentist's office and it kept my kids occupied with no thought of their about-to-happen visit. What a stroke of brilliance to have this in the waiting room. When we left, I saw an older man reading it and he had a big smile on his face. My dentist said she's been giving a copy to graduating dental students ... of course. My cousin's graduating from dental school next spring, so I'm glad to have THAT gift problem solved. Besides, it's fun to read. Who would have thought that tooth-losing traditions would be different all over the world? My kids started asking what else is the same but different with kids in other countries--good question.

I am a second year dental hygiene student and have recently been reading many tooth fairy tales. I loved the way the author showed the similarities as well as the differences of the world tooth traditions. I brought the book into our college clinic; those that had the chance to read the book loved all the different stories as well. Throw Your Tooth on the Roof: Tooth Traditions from Around

the World, by Selby B. Beeler, was a joy to read.

The kids love this book! Concerned about losing their baby teeth, the kids with whom I've read this book are intrigued to learn that they are not the only ones in the world who lose their teeth and do something special with them. A must-read for the tooth-losing age group!

I did not expect such a great and informative and cute book at this price. Amazing and awesome. My child who is 6 was just mesmerized by all the info in the book. She is a great reader and she read the book all by herself within half hour drive in the car. It has relatively small print so I needed glasses when I tried to read it again with her at bedtime but she managed to read fluently without any problems. The book has a nifty simple map of the world at the beginning and all the customs are divided into the geographical regions as in.. North America.. South America.. Central and South Africa.. Australia.. etc.. there are a bit more divisions than only continents but not that many more. It makes totally sense considering that there are different geographical/ethnic regions within one continent and that is reflected in the custom. Someone complained in redundancy of the customs but I think that it is not a flaw, it is actually an amazing sociological phenomenon that happens around the world and is reflected in the book.. a child picks up on it quickly as she reads and figures that there are actually similarities or customs are identical in few countries.. that makes you wonder and you begin to speculate and analyze and make some scientific discoveries.. as in.. it becomes apparently obvious that the countries that were UK colonies share the same customs as UK.. and then again.. areas where African culture was relocated from Africa reflect the roots of African customs etc.. that is just awesome and the whole deducting by geography thing makes so much fun for a child. You can clearly see why and where the similarities are and where they must have originated. If I could change anything I would blow the print twice so not only emerging readers could manage but also parents who can't see without glasses :) it is an awesome book to share at bedtime with kids so it makes it a bummer when you can't find glasses or need more light due to the small print. Make it bigger print and it will be just perfect. Illustrations are very captivating, simple and to the point and don't overpower the book. So are the stories.. figure one small paragraph per country or area.. and each has maybe five or so sentences.. short and very descriptive. Keep your interest up and going... you just can't put it down. I found it very interesting myself and I would never ever learn nor had an idea how many different customs are there in the world regarding the tooth traditions.. I came from an area where there are no traditions as such in this regard so it was fun. The title is fun but so true.. and then others are also not scary for a child and vary from things like ... putting a tooth under the bed for

a little mouse to take it and give you a new one, planting the tooth in the field etc..yes, scare factor is always important to me so this is zero scary.Great job in compiling and collecting info and illustrations!!!awesome.

I have been sending this book to friends whose children are reaching the tooth losing age. It provides an interesting perspective on the many odd traditions around the world. My friends have liked the fact the book is not US-centric, but instead spans the globe and various cultures.

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