Front Porch Tales North Country Whoppers

Kate Reynolds

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Reviewer: Kate Reynolds  
Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate, Young adult  
Rating: Excellent  
Genre: Picture books; Short Stories; Folklore;  
Subject: Tales--New England--Juvenile literature; Folklore--New England--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Perennial favorite dePaola has put together a humorous collection of New England--specifically Vermont and New Hampshire--folklore that intersperses stories about each of the seasons with a comic strip poking fun at tourists. The author's introduction states that some stories are based on jokes or stories he's heard, others are based on obscure folktale of the region and still others are entirely original--but he does not differentiate in the text itself which is which.

With stories that will bring a smile and dePaola's classic illustration style this book is sure to be a hit. However, if used in a classroom setting for read-aloud the reader might want to study up on getting the correct accent. The only thing that would improve this collection is a CD that provides a sample tale or two told in the right dialect.

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