Folklore and Healing: 
Suggestions for Further Reading 
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(A supplement to the RIG Healing Arts talk, “What Good are Stories: Folklore as Healing”)

My essays in *Parabola* include
“‘Light who Loves her Sister Darkness’ (on the necessity of embracing the outcast in society and the rejected in ourselves).
“Fierce Music” (on defining our real enemies and using other tactics than violence to confront violence)
“Help beyond the Walls” (finding psychological and spiritual allies)
“Godfather Death” (a widespread world tale illuminate the transition between life and death)
“Tracking the Trackless” (following the path of intuition and mystery)
”Wild Justice” (the mythic model of balance).

My article, ‘Making all the Crooked Ways Straight’: The Satirical Portrait of Whites in Coast Salish Folklore” (*Journal of American Folklore*, 1976) discusses ways in which Coast Salish societies used folklore to counter the oppression of colonialism.

My outline of the value of traditional stories to individuals and communities, along with links to related essays on folklore is online here: 
http://holdenma.wordpress.com/folklore-and-oral-tradition/

Here are a few other resources you might find helpful:

**Storytelling, meaning and oral tradition**
Vi Hilbert, *Haboo*
Scott Momaday, *A Man Made of Words* and *The Way to Rainy Mountain*
Leslie Marmon Silko, *Storyteller*
Johnny Moses and other Native authors’ tapes at http://www.ipl.org/div/natam/bin/browse.pl/A387
Jerome Rothenberg, *Technicians of the Sacred* and *Shaking the Pumpkin.*
*Parabola* (Classic journal of myth and meaning: each issue is focused on a particular topic)

**Using traditional stories for healing in contemporary society:**
Michael Meade: *Men and the Water of Life*. Meade also has audiotapes of storytelling sessions used to deal with such topics as male initiation at http://www.yellowmoon.com/meade.html
Jeanne Achterberg, *Imagery and Healing*
Arnie Mindell: *Coma* (and other works on process psychology)
Louise Carus Mahdi, Steven Foster & Meredith Little, *Betwixt & Between* (especially useful: “‘Do They Celebrate Christmas in Heaven?’ Teachings of Children with Life Threatening Illnesses”, by Tom Pinkson, M.D.)
A. B. Chinen, *Tales for Midlife* and *Waking the World*.
Heinrich Zimmer, *The King and the Corpse* (See, for instance, “Abu Kasem’s Slippers”, on models of wholeness in traditional folklore)

**Historical and cultural context and analysis of stories in Western tradition:**
William Irwin Thompson:
The Time Falling Bodies Take to Light has an analysis of tales from Sumer and Egypt. Imaginary Landscape has an analysis of the story of Rapunzel as a coded story for passing on info about this healing herb (rapunzel was its actual name) during the social repression of herbal healing.

James Hillman:
A Blue Fire, The Dream and the Underworld and (with Michael Ventura): We’ve Had a Hundred Years of Psychotherapy and Things are Getting Worse.

Morris Berman:
The Reenchantment of the World and Coming to our Senses: Body and Spirit in the Hidden History of the West.

Joan Halifax: