The Jack Tales by Richard Chase

The Jack Tales by Richard M. Chase have come to occupy a privileged position for scholars of American folklore, for popular purveyors of folklore, and even for folk artists. The Jack Tales are a collection of folk tales from the southern Appalachians that center on a single character, the irrepressible Jack. These tales have been handed down concordantly throughout the region, and they are told orally, rather than written down. Richard Chase has collected and retold these tales, providing a unique perspective on the history and culture of the southern Appalachian region.

The Jack Tales are not just a collection of stories, but a reflection of the values and beliefs of the people who told them. The tales often feature elements of humor, adventure, and the supernatural, and they are passed down from generation to generation through oral storytelling.

The Jack Tales have been embraced by modern audiences as well. They have been adapted into plays, films, and other forms of media, and they continue to be a popular subject for scholars and storytellers alike.

Richard Chase's collection of The Jack Tales is a valuable resource for anyone interested in American folklore, southern Appalachian history, or the oral tradition of storytelling. It is a testament to the enduring power of folk tales and the role they play in shaping our culture and our understanding of the world.