

# Folk stories in Finland

- Nature
- Explanations for phenomena
  - Aurora borealis
  - Beginning of the world



# Kalevala

# Kalevala

taikka

Wanhoja Karjalan Runoja

Suomen kansan muinostista  
ajoista.

2. Osa.

H. G. ERICSSON, 1835.

Präntätty J. C. Frenckellin ja Pojan tykönä.

## What is Kalevala?

- National epic of Finland
- Collection of Finnish folk stories gathered by Elias Lönnroth
- Started collecting in 1828
  - "Old Kalevala" 1835, 32 poems
  - "New Kalevala" 1849, 50 poems
- The language used had to be modified to fit all Finns
- Had an effect in
  - Language
  - Culture; music, literature, paintings
  - History
  - Translated into 61 languages by 2010

- Creation myth
  - Duck lays eggs on Ilmatar's knee
  - Väinämöinen is born
- Epic consists of
  - Magic and spells
  - Singing
  - Romance, lust and seduction
- Seppo Ilmarinen is influenced by the Greek Daedalus and Weyland from Germanic mythology
  - Creator of Sampo
- Sampo, a magical talisman that brings prosperity and fortune to it's owner
- Hard tasks given to protagonists
- Ends in reference of Christianity



# Lemminkäinen



- Interesting and stubborn character
- Lemminkäinen has many names, such as Ahti and wanton Loverboy
- Two main interests were fighting and women
- Tasks such as capturing the Hiisi's elk/Demon's elk and the swan from Tuonela/underworld
- Mauri Kunnas "Canine Kalevala"



*'O bee, bird of ours  
king of forest flowers!  
Go now, fetch honey  
go and bring back mead  
out of pleasant Forestland  
from careful Tapiola  
from the heads of many flowers  
the husks of many grasses  
to be ointment for the sick  
to make the ill well!'*

Just then a bee happened to buzz by.

"Oh, bee, king of woodland blossoms, bring to me some healing honey," she begged.

# The effects of Kalevala in culture

- Nationalism in autonomous Finland
- New words
  - Järjestää = to organize, Keskipäivä = noon, Nuoriso = youth (people)
- Many brands hold names connected to Kalevala
  - Kalevala jewelry
  - Lemminkäinen Group in construction industry
  - Pohjola insurance company
- Jean Sibelius, most known Finnish composer, was influenced by Kalevala
- Aleksis Gallen-Kallela
- J. R. R. Tolkien was extremely inspired by Kalevala mythology and the One Ring from “Lord of The Rings” is inspired by Sampo and Väinämöinen is similar to Gandalf

