

## 5. COCKROACH IN HUMAN CULTURE

Cockroaches have been transformed into heroes, villains and loveable folks in oral and literary forms. Folktales have been around for centuries, told to adults and well as children. They typically feature European and South American folklore fantasy characters and cultures, and eventually are written down.

This Venezuelan folktale is written by Campoy F. Isabel and Alma Flor Ada. Originally a Hispanic Folktale, it has several adaptations. The main character varies as an ant, butterfly and Cockroach. This tale is particularly popular in Puerto Rico.

### A LOVE STORY: Martina Martinez, the Cockroach and Perez the Rat



Plot: 1). Martina found a coin, 2). She bought a ribbon for her hair and began to party, 3). Courtship was in the air, 4). She married Raton, the Rat, 5). He fell into a pot of hot soup. 5). Martina panicked!