

Storytelling Competition 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

The Storytelling festival will not be held in person this year due to circumstances in relation to Covid 19. But we are happy to let you know that we can still do the Storytelling competition virtually. So that means you will be able to video your performance and send it in for the judges to look at. You can video yourself at home and share it with me through google drive. Please send it in by the 24th of October so we can have it judged in time for the region competition.

I still have the little story books and can make copies of stories for you if you don't know what story to do. You can probably catch me sometime right after school Mon. - Thurs. in the library or sometime Wednesday or Thursday in the morning before lunch or in the afternoon after lunch.

Please look over the rules attached and the sheet used for the competition so you will know what to practice.

Have lots of fun making your videos and good luck!

Mrs. Day

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Washington County School District

Storytelling Rules

1. Stories must be told from memory - not read aloud. (This does not mean they have to be memorized.)
2. Stories may be told individually by a student from grades 3-5, with the exception of Enterprise Elementary.
3. Stories should be 3 to 5 minutes long. We will not cut off any storyteller, but a maximum of 8 minutes for all storytellers is suggested and the score will be affected.
4. Props and/or music are NOT allowed to be used as an accent to a story.
5. Stories selected may come from books in your library or those you may have at home or even made-up by the student. Students can NOT change their story from the School festival to the District festival or they will be **disqualified**.
6. Two students from the same school may do the same story but will compete in the same category.
7. Winners are not selected collectively but rather from each category. There should be 2 winners from each category.
8. All storyteller participants will need to pre-record their performance before the festival date. Each school will be responsible for uploading the video of each winner on the Schoology course, as provided.

Student Storytelling Helps

1. Only tell stories you like. Storytelling is an art where your feelings are clearly apparent. The audience will know if you are not interested in your story. Children particularly cannot be fooled.
2. You should know the story through and through. Read it and tell it several times until you have all the parts memorized in your head and in your heart. Memorize the first and last lines so you have clearly defined ways to begin and end your story.
3. Warm up your voice before you begin telling stories. Recite poetry, practice your stories, sing -- do something to have your throat warm and your blood flowing so that your voice and breath do not disappear during a performance.
4. Dress and look your best to honor those who have come your personality. However, please remember that NO props are allowed.
5. Be ready to adjust your story just in case you forget a line. Always be prepared with more materials than you need.
6. You can record your story as many times as you see fit. It is up to your own discretion whether or not you would like to perform your final story in front of a small audience or by yourself in an isolated space. Send your best video performance to the judges.

Suggested Storytelling Book List

Folk/Tall Tales & Legends

- The Tortoise and the Hare
- The Fox and the Grapes
- Pecos Bill
- Paul Bunyan
- Johnny Appleseed
- Hercules
- The Sun and the Wind

Fantasy & Fairy Tales

- Little Red Riding Hood
- The Gingerbread Man
- Cinderella
- The Three Billy Goats Gruff
- The Little Red Hen
- The Ugly Duckling
- Jack and the Beanstalk

Humorous

- How to Eat Fried Worms
- There's a Snake in the Toilet
- The Chocolate Touch
- Captain Underpants
- Godzilla Ate My Homework
- Makeup Mess
- The Principal's New Clothes

Mystery & Adventure

- Nancy Drew
- Sherlock Holmes
- Encyclopedia Brown
- Boxcar Children
- My Hairiest Adventure
- Weslandia
- Huckleberry Finn

Storytelling Festival 2020

The storytelling festival is coming again
Sharpen up your memories and then...

Tell the story in YOUR very own way,
Come on storytellers what do you say?

Folk/Tall Tales & Legends

Fantasy & Fairy Tales

Humorous

Mystery & Adventure

Pick a category, that's easy to do.

Then find a story that's interesting to you.

Read it and read it and read it some more,

Until the story by heart and soul is yours.

Not memorized, mind you, not word for word

But YOUR own special way of telling it is what should
be heard.

Top Benefits of Storytelling

1. **Storytelling increases self-esteem.** With the greatest risk comes the greatest sense of achievement. One child wrote: "The hardest thing I've ever done was telling my story in front of my class and all those parents that night. But it was also the best thing that ever happened in my life when everyone in the audience applauded for me." That kind of confidence lingers and spills over into other aspects of life.
2. **Storytelling**, unlike some arts or sports activities, **can involve all youngsters** regardless of ability level. Children often surprise teachers, parents, other kids, and themselves with their storytelling skills. One teacher wrote: "Storytelling is within the grasp of each child so everyone can participate. The success of kids who don't usually do well in school was surprising and especially rewarding for me, but also for the other kids." Children often gain respect for others whom they thought weren't as capable as them. Many teachers have also remarked about how a storytelling project improves class cooperation.
3. **Showing poise and confidence** when speaking in front of others comes with practice and experience. In surveys in which adults are asked to name their greatest fear, speaking in front of a group always comes first. The more children are encouraged to do oral presentations while they're young, the easier it will be for them when they're older. Through storytelling, children learn techniques for gaining and holding an audience's attention (eye contact, use of voice, gestures, pacing, etc.).
4. **Storytelling improves listening skills.** The pure pleasure children experience while listening to stories helps them to associate listening with enjoyment. During a classroom storytelling project, students learn to listen respectfully to their peers and how to coach one another in a constructive way.
5. Learning a story, rather than memorizing, ensures a much better sense of story, sequence, cause and effect, and character traits. **Comprehension skills** must be used in order to learn a story and tell it well. Telling stories improves and **reinforces other language skills** such as vocabulary, story recall, and reading aloud with expression and confidence.

6. **Storytelling encourages creative writing.** For example, during the course of a project where students tell folktales, they learn not only their own stories but those of their classmates as well. It's as if they go inside a story and live there for a while. By doing so, they discover, on a visceral level, what makes a good story. Their own subsequent stories show much more creative use of dialogue and contain more of the standard story components: beginning and end, plot, characters, setting, and theme.
7. **Storytelling stimulates inventive thinking and imagination.** Albert Einstein once said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." If children choose a folk story and, in keeping with the oral tradition, make it their own in the retelling, they learn to be creative, to think on their feet.
8. **Telling stories instills a love of language** in children and **motivates them to read.** From folktales they develop an understanding of other people, places, and cultures, and learn to appreciate diversity.
9. Perhaps most important of all, **storytelling is fun!** One father, who had watched his own child and her classmates tell stories in front of parents and peers, wrote to our local school district to ask that funding for storytelling continue: "Storytelling is an important activity with many long-term benefits for kids. I've noticed many young adults in business who lack even basic skills in communicating their ideas to others verbally, particularly to a group. Storytelling gives kids a real jump on acquiring these skills. In addition, it develops something that many practiced speakers lack, namely an ability to use expression and humor to captivate and motivate their audiences. An added benefit is that I have rarely seen a bunch of kids so motivated to do a 'school' activity.

For more information, see their website at www.beautyandthebeaststorytellers.com