



Story Telling: Listen and Tell!

Artist: Yvonne Young



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Grade Level:

K-Adult, Staff Development

About the Artist:

Drawing upon thirty years as an elementary teacher and more than twenty years as a storyteller, Yvonne utilizes audience participation, character voices and gestures to empower, entertain, teach and challenge students. The residencies and assemblies she presents may focus on a particular theme including, but not limited to, folktales from around the world, Native American and/or African American tales, stories of peace and justice, environmental tales, and stories from the Oregon Trail and Oregon History.

Yvonne's thesis for her master's degree from the University of Oregon is entitled "The Effects of Storytelling on Children's Listening Skills." As Oregon State Liaison to the National Storytelling Network, Yvonne travels regularly to the National Storytelling Conference. She presented her workshop "The ABC's of Storytelling" at the 2005 Conference and received one of two *ORACLE AWARDS* for Service and Leadership in the Pacific Region at the 2004 Conference. Her article "The ABC's of Storytelling" in *A Beginner's Guide to Storytelling* was published by The National Storytelling Press. Yvonne has taught Storytelling for teachers through the UO Continuation Center. Yvonne participated in EthNohTec's storytelling tour in India in addition to a storytelling tour in Thailand with Thai storyteller Wajuppa Tossa in November 2008.

Objectives:

- To instill love of language.
- To stimulate imagination, inventive thinking, and emotional development.
- To develop listening skills.
- To impart awareness and appreciation of other cultures.
- To implant universal truths and cultural values embedded in stories.
- To develop self-confidence and the ability to speak in front of a group.

Activities:

- Listening to a variety of stories.
- Hearing, discussing, hearing again, and then retelling a story to a partner and/or a group.
- Learning the characteristics of a “tellable” tale, and the basic concepts of storytelling.
- Choosing a story to learn.
- Participating in exercises relating to learning styles and vocal techniques.
- Learning the chosen story, and then telling it to a partner and/or a group.
- Dramatizing stories (Kindergarten and first grades).
- Presenting a program for parents or another classroom, if appropriate.

Workshop Size Limits:

- One classroom (30 students, maximum) for workshops. Up to 250 students for an assembly.

Special Equipment:

- Access to a copy machine and the school library, and a large table for materials.
- A microphone and a small table or student desk for assemblies.

Space Needed:

- A classroom or library for residencies, and the gym or multi-purpose room for performances.
- A home stay would be appreciated after an evening program.

Connections to the Curriculum:

Storytelling fits with the language arts curriculum like a hand in a glove. It also fosters social studies and/or science concepts, and can be used as a springboard for art projects.