

Storytelling



LEAF Education
Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG
www.leafuk.org/education

Storytelling



Contents

- **Introduction** **Page 3**
- **Traditional storytelling openings** **Pages 4–6**
- **Traditional storytelling closings** **Pages 7–9**
- **Story Island** **Pages 10-12**
- **Some starting points** **Pages 13-15**
- **Riddle-me-ree** **Pages 16-18**
- **Woodland or farmland walk ideas** **Pages 19-21**

Storytelling



Introduction

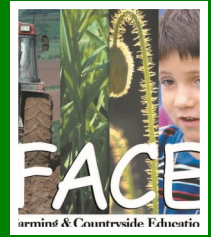
A seminar looked at the role of storytelling in visits to farms and outdoor locations.

Fiona Collins, an experienced storyteller, looked at how stories can be used in different settings and how they can be created with children.

Fiona kindly gave permission for the ideas we used to be made available.

Have a go with your visiting groups and see how good storytelling can be in engaging young people in your activity!

Storytelling



Traditional Storytelling Openings

- 1) Once upon a time, not twice, not three times, but once, just once and never again ...
- 2) There was once, in old times, and in old times it was ...
- 3) In a certain kingdom, in a certain land, in a certain village, there was once ...
- 4) May I tell you a tale, may I make the tale penetrate you,
 May I rock you to sleep with a tale, may I wake you with a story
- 5) Here's the flourish, just for fun,
 The real tale has not yet begun!

Storytelling



6) Call: Let's tell another story - let's be off!

Response: Pull away!

Call: Let's be off!

Response: Pull away!

7) Call: A story, a story

Response: Let it come, let it go!

8) Once upon a time, when chickens still had teeth, and horses still had feathers

9) Now I am ready to tell my story, and if you don't listen, your ears will turn green and fall off!



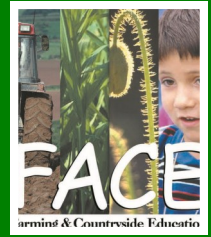
10) There was, and there was not ...

Storytelling



- 11) Times and times, and very good times,
And it wasn't your time, nor my time,
But it was somebody's time ...
- 12) Once upon a time, when pigs spoke
rhyme, and monkeys chewed tobacco,
And hens took snuff, to make them tough,
And ducks went quack, quack, quack-o!
- 13) Those of you who have taken vows of
friendship, you are welcome,
Those of you who have kept vows of
friendship, you are welcome,
If you come from far away, you are welcome,
If you come from near at hand, you are
welcome!
Be careful, my heart, the source of
diamonds, is in this room,

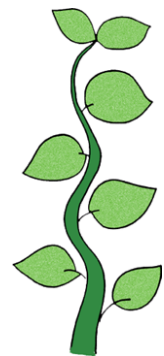
Storytelling



Traditional Storytelling Closings

1) This is my spider story which I have given to you;
If it be sweet, or if it be not sweet,
Take some elsewhere, and let some come back to me.

2) This story will have to do, for it went through a broken shoe
And came out in a little bean stalk, so (name) can take up the talk!



3) There's my story, it wasn't very long,
If it isn't worth a penny, it's maybe worth a song.

Storytelling



4) That is my story! If there be a lie in it, be it so!

It is not I who made it or invented it.

5) Snip, snap, snout, my story is out!

6) Bee bo bendit, my tale is ended.

If you don't like it, go to Wales, get copper nails, and mend it.

7) Call: Wire bend

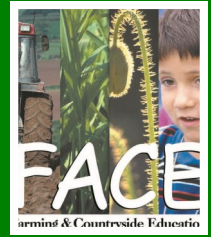
Response: Story end.

8) Jack Mandora, me no choose none!

9) A piece of pudding, for telling a good 'un.

A piece of pie, for telling a lie.

Storytelling



- 10) They lived happy, so may we,
Put on the kettle and we'll have a cup of
tea.
- 11) Awake, arise, pull out your eyes, and see
what time of day.
And when you're done, pull out your
tongue, and see what it will say.
- 12) They all lived happily ever after.
- 13) And that's the last of my story.
- 14) Three apples fell from heaven:
One for the storyteller, one for the listener,
And one for the one who lends an ear.



Storytelling



Story Island

Story Island is played in a circle. It is a way for the children to contribute and develop their own ideas to a shared story. The story can be one that has been told or read. It is also possible to create a Story Island and then make up a story that happens there.

The space in the middle of the circle becomes the Story Island for the story under discussion, and each child in turn adds something to the story world, while everyone chants: “There

Storytelling



was a Story Island, and on that Story Island, Susan put a tree.”

Once everyone has added something to the Story Island, each child in turn is offered a Magic Ticket to go on to the island and explore it. Each child ‘brings back’ something from the island, and the rest of the group guesses what it is. The child can choose to mime the object, or describe it without naming it.

The child can present something that was

Storytelling



in the circle, or something new, that they 'noticed' when they were on the island.

Another way to explore the island is to allow all the children to go to the island at once, and return when an agreed signal is given.

It is possible to follow this up by inviting the children to draw the Story Island, make a map of it or create an image using found natural objects.



Storytelling



Some starting points.

All these ideas involve the children.
The more involved children are, the more they
will gain from an activity.

1. Tell simple real life stories about the child, his/her family and friends, describing something the child has done, or a forthcoming event.
2. Make family puppets by cutting out photographs of the child and important family members and sticking them onto lolly sticks. Use them for telling stories about the child's real life or imaginary adventures.

Storytelling



3. Choose three ordinary, every day objects (a spoon, a coin, a book) and make up a story with the child about the person they belong to.
4. Fill a bag with small objects and as the child unpacks them, create a story about the objects, or their owner.
5. Make simple puppets out of fruit and vegetables and use them for storytelling.
6. Draw faces on the child's thumbs (or your own) and make up names and a story about the two little characters.
7. Find a few smooth clean stones and let the child draw faces on them with thick marker pen. These stones can become puppets, pets

Storytelling



8. Use a nursery rhyme that the child knows as the start of a story.
(What does the little boy down the lane do with his bag of wool in 'Baa Baa Black Sheep'? What happened to Jack and Jill after they came down the hill? Who put Humpty Dumpty together again?)



9. Make a story nook from pieces of fabric hung over a table or between two chairs. Make it just big enough for the child and some favourite teddies. Let the child 'invite' the teddies inside to tell them some stories.

10. Photocopy the pictures from a favourite picture book and help the child to arrange them in order and retell the story from the pictures.

Storytelling



Riddle-Me-Ree

1. I have six arms, I cover farms
And a million of me would make a man.
A SNOWFLAKE
2. On my face, you won't find thirteen
anyplace. A CLOCK
3. Old Mother Twitchet has but one eye
And a long tail which she can let fly
And every time she goes over a gap
She leaves a bit of her tail in a trap.
A NEEDLE
4. What is dark, yet made of light?
SHADOW

Storytelling



5. Thirty white horses on a red hill
First they champ, then they stamp
Then they stand still.

TEETH



6. The maker doesn't want it
The buyer doesn't use it
The user doesn't see it.

A COFFIN

7. I may be round, I may be square
In between a rip and a tear
You think you see me, but I'm not there.

A HOLE

8. In marble hall as white as milk
Lined with a skin as smooth as silk
No lock or hinges to this stronghold
Yet thieves break in to steal the gold.

AN EGG

Storytelling



9. What goes on four legs in the morning,
Two legs at noon,
And three legs in the evening?
(The Sphinx' riddle to Oedipus)
A HUMAN

10. What runs without feet and sings without a
throat?
A RIVER



Storytelling



Woodland or Farmland Walk Ideas

Meet a tree

Stop in a nice place and tell all the children to pick a tree.

Then everyone sits by their tree and is quiet for just one minute. Afterwards you talk about all the noises you heard, and the way you saw the wind pass through the trees, changing sunlight etc.

It's wonderful what people notice, and it can be very effective then to go into a quiet story.

Sky-walking

Hold a mirror at waist level, flat, and walk slowly along looking into it, and see the upper branches and the sky beyond.

Storytelling



Tree hugging

Close your eyes and run your fingers over the bark of a trunk.

Find words to describe what you feel.



Lucky talismans

You need a small hand drill, big needles and lots of button thread.

The children have to find an interesting piece of wood on the ground.

You drill a hole in one end and give it to them to thread on their thread. If the twig is too small to drill you can always tie it onto the string.

Storytelling



Story maps

After hearing a story the children go off to collect objects which represent the story for them in some way.

They may choose characters, places, feelings or events to represent. Then they arrange their finds on a piece of paper or other flat surface and talk a partner through the story, using their story map as a guide.

Resource

An excellent book with lots of ideas for woodland games is

"Sharing Nature with Children" by Joseph Bharat Cornell

Published by Exley. ISBN 1-85015-137-7

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/731934.Sharing_Nature_with_Children