



INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING CENTER

Connecting the World through the Power of Storytelling

Lesson Plan for Preparing a Class to come to a Storytelling Event hosted by the International Storytelling Center

Objectives:

These objectives come from the Common Core Standards for 6th grade which can be found in Storytelling and the Common Core Standards, grades 6-12 from the Youth, Educators and Storytellers Alliance. A copy of this document and one for grades K-6 can be found in the 'Support Materials' section of this profile. This plan can be adapted for other grades, also.

-RL.6.3 - Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

-RL.6.7 – Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they “see” and “hear” when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.

-W.6.3 - Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, relevant descriptive details and well-structured event sequences.

-W.6.7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate

-SL.6.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

-SL.6.4. Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

Part 1 –Activity to be used before coming to a storytelling concert

1. Talk about the different kinds of stories one might hear at the event: folktales, fairy tales, ghost stories, personal narratives, fables, stories about historical events or people in history, traditional tales, etc. This website gives descriptions of many kinds types of stories:

<http://www.australianstorytelling.org.au/txt/m-types.php>

2. Choose two videos from the following list that give examples of different types of stories.

Antonio Rocha <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch0JQxTfruc>

This video shows Antonio telling an African folktale about The Chicken and the Crocodile. The time of the video is 11:50.

Diane Ferlatte <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKcNrgaGakM>

This video shows Diane telling a folktale about the creation of languages. The time of the video is 5:50.

Kim Weitkamp <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDLL2Z-T-pM>

This video shows Kim telling a personal story about a teacher who believes in her and encourages her gifts. The time of the video is 4:04.

Antonio Sacre <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ls1axl-Pcxs>

This video shows Antonio telling a personal story about how he began to write as a young child. The time of the video is 7:39.

3. Have students answer the following questions about each story. They can do this as a discussion with the whole class or in small groups.

Closed Questions

- What kind of story is this? (fable, fairy tale, folktale, ghost story, personal narrative, a story about history or people in history, a traditional tale, etc.)
- Who are the characters in the story?
- Are there objects in the story? How did the storyteller use the objects?
- How did the storyteller use body language to help tell the story?
- Did the storyteller use music or sounds to communicate the story? How did it contribute to the story?
- What are the big events in the story?

Open Questions

- How did the story make you feel?
- Did your mood change after you heard the story? If so, how?
- Would you have the same emotions if the story were told live? Would those emotions have been weaker or stronger?
- Compare and contrast the differences in the experiences of hearing a story told to that of reading a story.
- How do you think the teller learned the story?
- Why do you think the storyteller chose this story?
- What did you learn from the story?
- What do you think our society could learn from the story?

Part 2 – Questions for students to consider during a storytelling concert.

Ask students to keep these things in mind as they listen to stories at the International Storytelling Center event:

- Think about what kind of story the teller is telling.
- Observe the reactions of the audience.
- Does the teller use any objects to help tell the story? Are they effective?
- Does the teller use music or sound effects to enhance the story?
- Observe the teller's body language.
- How does the story make you feel?

- What is the most memorable story that you heard? Why?
- What did you learn from the story?
- What can the story teach our society?

The students can be asked to write about their favorite story from the concert using their answers to the above questions to help them tell about the story and the storyteller.

Part 3 – Activity to be used after attending a storytelling concert

After attending the storytelling event, have the students work on writing a story of their own to share with the class. You can let the students choose from the following options or you can choose one option for the whole class to use. This is a good opportunity to show students how to use the arts across the curriculum. Stories can be shared about people or events in many different subjects.

1. Tell a personal narrative from the student's own experience

Have the student write the personal story and learn it.

2. Interview a family member to learn a family story to share

http://www.folklife.si.edu/education_exhibits/resources/guide/introduction.aspx or
http://www.slideshare.net/citylore/city-lore-interviewing-guide?from=ss_embed

These guidelines can help the student prepare for the interview, if they choose to learn a family story. After the interview is complete, have the student write the story and learn it.

3. Retell a folktale in a modern day setting

Have students find a folktale in the library or online. Give students time to make changes to the story to convert it to a modern day setting. Have them write the modern version and learn it. Many stories can be found at these websites: <http://www.sofasandsectionals.com/stories-and-fairy-tales>
<http://www.storyarts.org/links/folktale/index.html>

Sharing Stories

After students have completed their stories, put them in pairs and let them rehearse by telling the story to one another before sharing it with the class.

A Class Storytelling Festival

As the finale to a unit on storytelling, you can plan a class festival. Students can use their many different talents in planning and participating in the festival. Another class can be invited to hear the stories. Stories can be used from different aspects of the curriculum. This can be a way to gather some STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) and show that the arts can be used across the curriculum.