



## Story Guide

. . . AND THEN WE WERE 7

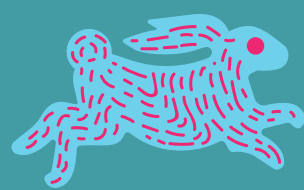
BY

DONNA WASHINGTON

Watch the video of storyteller Donna Washington live at the 2019 National Storytelling Festival [here](#).  
(Right click on link to open it in a new tab.) All videos include ASL interpretation.

Story run time is 00:00 to 8:22

Now, enjoy exploring the story with the activities outlined below.



### explore it

- Donna uses the tongue twister, "Peter Piper picked a peck of purple pickled peppers" as an ice breaker to get her story session started. Create a tongue twister and get someone to say it faster and faster! Do you think having an ice breaker before the story begins is helpful?
- Donna tells a personal narrative and engages the audience by asking them questions. Name some of the questions, and tell how the questions enhance her story.



### think it

- What made Donna's family want to adopt children when they had 4 of their own?
- When they picked up Joseph from the orphanage, Donna calls him "the saddest kid you have ever seen." Why was he sad? How did he show his sadness?
- What happens to finalize Joseph's adoption even though the orphanage tells the family to bring him back? Who helps?
- How did Milton choose the family?



### create it

- Donna is one of 7 children. What would be fun about being part of a big family? What would be difficult? Draw a picture of the 7 kids and their parents.
- Donna uses various actions to illustrate emotions when describing her family such as sadness, joy, fear and anger. Act out some of the emotions from the story and see if someone can guess them.



### tell it

- This story is a personal narrative about some of Donna's family experiences. Write a personal narrative about something that happened in your family. Tell it to a family member.
- Donna's family made a welcome home cake for the children they adopted. Make a list of how your family celebrates special occasions and share it with a friend. Learn how your friend's family celebrates.