



## Story Guide

### UNCLE DEBO, JELL-O BALLOONS, AND STRIKE ANYWHERE MATCHES BY BIL LEPP

Watch the video of storyteller Bil Lepp 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 09:15 to 26:39.

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



### explore it

- This story is a tall tale based on some true events from the teller's life. Tall tales use hyperbole or exaggeration as Bil does when he says he carried "two hundred thousand Strike Anywhere matches" in his backpack. Name other hyperboles used in this story.
- How does Bil's stage presence (his clothing and the way he stands) relate to his stories?



### think it

- Make a list of things that Bil and Skeeter stretched with their stretching machines.
- What happened to make Uncle Debo think the aliens had come for him?
- What made Uncle Debo's pants explode?
- It seems like Bil was telling several separate stories. How does he bring them together in the end?



### create it

- Uncle Debo has a fear of alien abduction. Have fun dressing up like an alien.
- At the beginning, Bil tells about playing a game where his kids ask, "What do we have now that you didn't have when you were a kid? What do we NOT have now that you guys had when you were children?" Play this game with an adult.
- Illustrate one of the stretching machines in the story.



### tell it

- Bil says, "Almost all good storytelling is conversation." Think about something that seems silly, like alien abduction, but that still frightens you. Share your experience with a friend and ask them to share their experience with you.
- Bil tells how Uncle Debo got his nickname. Do you have a nickname? How did you get this nickname?