
BPSD Technology Publication

Speaking and Listening in ELA Program

Storytelling, Drama, Creative Dramatics, Puppetry, Choral Speaking & Readers Theater

Prepared by Ron Nordstrom, Technology Coordinator ph. 476-3305 rnordstrom@bpsd.mb.ca

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Storytelling

Storytelling is one of our oldest art forms. Long before modern media entertained us storytelling was a common pastime, and a good storyteller was a valuable attribute to the community. Folktales and fables are one of the oldest educational tools through which cultures have passed down values and lore from one generation to the next.

<http://www.storyarts.org/> - Storytelling Activities and Ideas Includes: How to get started, lesson plans, activities, story library

Example of a story in the Story Library:

The Purse of Gold *A Jewish Folktale*

A beggar found a leather purse that someone had dropped in the marketplace. Opening it, he discovered that it contained 100 pieces of gold. Then he heard a merchant shout, "A reward! A reward to the one who finds my leather purse!"

Being an honest man, the beggar came forward and handed the purse to the merchant saying, "Here is your purse. May I have the reward now?"

"Reward?" scoffed the merchant, greedily counting his gold. "Why the purse I dropped had 200 pieces of gold in it. You've already stolen more than the reward! Go away or I'll tell the police."

"I'm an honest man," said the beggar defiantly. "Let us take this matter to the court."

In court the judge patiently listened to both sides of the story and said, "I believe you both. Justice is possible! Merchant, you stated that the purse you lost contained 200 pieces of gold. Well, that's a considerable cost. But, the purse this beggar found had only 100 pieces of gold. Therefore, it couldn't be the one you lost."

And, with that, the judge gave the purse and all the gold to the beggar.

Fingerplays

Fingerplays are a fun way of introducing poetry to children. Fingerplays are also useful tools for practicing fine motor skills, following directions and introducing concepts.

Some examples at:

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/fingerplayindex.htm>

<http://www.sqedunk.com/content.htm>

<http://www-personal.engin.umich.edu/~ajdrake/toddler/fngr2.htm>

<http://www.naturallearning.com/fingerplays.html>

http://members.tripod.com/~Patricia_F/learning.html

Reader's Theatre

What is Reader's Theatre

Readers' theatre is an interpretive oral reading activity. Students use their voices, facial expressions and hand gestures to interpret characters in scripts or stories. Teachers and students may adapt favourite stories for readers' theatre

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through collaborative script writing activities.

There are many styles of reader's theater, but nearly all share these traits:

- No full memorization. Scripts are held during performance.
- No full costume. If used at all, costumes are partial and suggestive, or neutral and uniform.
- No full stage sets. If used at all, sets are simple and suggestive.
- Narration forms the framework of dramatic presentation.

Reader's Theatre is seen as a key tool for creating interest in reading. Kids love to do it, and they give it their all—more so because it's a team effort, and they don't want to let down their friends! And if the script is based on an available book, they of course want to read it. What's more, reader's theater is a simple activity for the teacher, since it requires no setup apart from the reproduction of scripts.

Aaron Shepard's Site - Scripts, tips, scripting sheets – an excellent place to start.

<http://www.aaronshp.com/rt/index.html>

Have your students create their own Reader's Theatre Scripts. This site shows you how.

<http://www.qesn.meq.gov.qc.ca/schools/bchs/rtheatre/teach2.htm>

Reader's Theater Scripts

<http://www.fictionteachers.com/classroomtheater/theater.html>

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Thebes/9893/readerstheater.htm> **Scripts and lots more**

Drama

Drama Games

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/drama810/apg.htm>

<http://www.aspa.asn.au/Projects/english/dqwup.htm>

<http://gci.wrdsb.edu.on.ca/clubs/drama/Games.htm>

<http://www.tiebreak-theatre.com/drama.htm>

Improv

<http://www.humanpingpongball.com/>

<http://www.learnimprov.com/> **Warm-ups, handles, exercises, long forms.**

<http://www.creativedrama.com/theatre.htm>

General Drama Sites

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/drama.htm>

<http://www.proteacher.com/070001.shtml>

Search Tip

Using www.google.com, www.yahoo.com, or any search engine, try these keyword searches:

Storytelling scripts, fingerplays, puppetry scripts, puppet making, mask making, reader's theatre scripts, drama games, theatre games, improv games, choral speaking scripts, drama scripts, radio plays.