

Storytelling Activities and Resources Reading List



FIVE-MINUTE TALES: MORE STORIES TO READ AND TELL WHEN TIME IS

**AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR**

AUTHOR: Margaret Read MacDonald
ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION

As a companion to her award-winning story collection Three Minute Tales, Margaret Read MacDonald has compiled another delightful collection of entertaining stories from around the world edited especially for the tastes and interests of young readers.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: 3rd-5th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** 0 / **LEXILE:** 600L

ISBNs

PAPERBACK: 978-0-874837-82-7 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874837-81-0

FORTY FUN FABLES: TALES THAT TRICK, TICKLE AND TEACH

**AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR**

AUTHOR: Martha Hamilton Mitch Weiss
ILLUSTRATOR: Baird Hoffmire

DESCRIPTION

Animals don't talk but they appear in fables to tell us about our very human selves. This classic collection of whimsical stories is told simply with wit that appeals to children of all ages. In reading these tales, the lessons of many cultures are passed along and wisdom is shared. Young readers will be highly engaged and entertained by the fools, tricksters, and clever characters who appear in these timeless stories.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: 2nd-4th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** N / **LEXILE:**

ISBNs

PAPERBACK: 978-1-939160-77-5 / **HARDCOVER:**

IMPROVING YOUR STORYTELLING: BEYOND THE BASICS FOR ALL WHO TELL STORIES IN WORK OR PLAY

AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR

AUTHOR: Doug Lipman
ILLUSTRATOR: Joy Freeman

DESCRIPTION

The first steps in storytelling are often easy because we tell stories informally every day. Once you take storytelling into the more formal contexts of performance or occupational uses, however, you may be faced with challenges you hadn't anticipated. You need information that goes beyond the basics, and you need it in a form that does not just tell you what to do but helps you make your own informed decisions.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: NA / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** Z / **LEXILE:**

ISBNs

PAPERBACK: 978-08-74835-30-4 / **HARDCOVER:**

INVITING THE WOLF IN

AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR

AUTHOR: Loren Niemi Elizabeth Ellis
ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION

A difficult story is any story whose content makes it challenging to tell or difficult to hear. Told for the wrong reasons, it can be as painful for the listener as for the teller. However, as we know from literature and media, *Sophie's Choice* to *The Sixth Sense*, told properly, a difficult story can powerfully alter not only he who tells it, but those who hear it.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: NA / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** Z / **LEXILE:**

ISBNs

PAPERBACK: 978-0-874836-23-3 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874836-56-1

MORAL OF THE STORY

AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR

AUTHOR: Bobby Norfolk Sherry Norfolk
ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION A user-friendly, hands-on approach to using storytelling and folktales in character education, as well as twelve stories that are fun, time- and audience-tested, and accessible to a wide range of listeners, from preschool to high school.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** / **LEXILE:**

ISBNS **PAPERBACK:** 978-1-939160-75-1 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874837-98-8

MORE READY-TO-TELL TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** David Holt Bill Mooney
ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION This collection of world tales focuses on stories originating from nearly every continent. They are short, gripping stories that "kick in fast," including comedy, trickster, tall tales, and family themes for middle and young readers.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** 5th-8th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** Y / **LEXILE:** 930L

ISBNS **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874835-83-0 / **HARDCOVER:**

PARENTS' GUIDE TO STORYTELLING

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** Margaret Read MacDonald
ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION Children of all ages love hearing stories. Many parents, though, freeze when their children ask them to tell a story rather than read one, or panic when they begin to lose their attention mid-story.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** NA / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** / **LEXILE:**

ISBNS **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874836-18-9 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874836-19-6

READY-TO-TELL-TALES: SURE-FIRE STORIES FROM AMERICA'S FAVORITE STORYTELLERS

AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR

AUTHOR: David Holt Bill Mooney
ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION

Anyone who has watched a master storyteller mesmerize an audience without benefit of set, props, or musical score, has wondered: How do they do that? The trick, this anthology tells us, is in the material. And the 40 contributors should know. They are some of America's most popular storytellers, each of them sharing a story guaranteed to work in front of the most demanding audience.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: 3rd-4th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** 0 / **LEXILE:**

ISBNs

PAPERBACK: 978-0-874833-81-2 / **HARDCOVER:**

ROUND BOOK: ROUNDS KIDS LOVE TO SING

AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR

AUTHOR: Margaret Read MacDonald Winifred Jaeger
ILLUSTRATOR: Yvonne LeBrun Davis

DESCRIPTION

This handy paperback presents 80 songs designed to be sung as rounds. Each one appears on an uncluttered page or two, illustrated by a simple ink drawing. From sixteenth-century tunes to contemporary camp songs, the selection is rich and varied, and the appended bibliography, "More Rounds for the Avid Singer," suggests other books and recordings. Song leaders will find the clearly written suggestions for round singing particularly helpful. A fine resource for school music teachers, choir directors, camp leaders, and children who sing for the love of it.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** / **LEXILE:**

ISBNs

PAPERBACK: 978-0-874837-86-5 / **HARDCOVER:**

SHAKE-IT-UP TALES!

AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR

AUTHOR: Margaret Read MacDonald
ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION

As any good storyteller knows, audience participation often makes the difference between a so-so story and a terrific tale. Here, veteran performer Margaret Read MacDonald shares her experience in this collection of multicultural stories that involve plenty of audience involvement. You'll find riddle stories, improvisational stories, singing tales, tandem tales, and much more.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: 2nd-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** L / **LEXILE:**

ISBNs

PAPERBACK: 978-0-874835-70-0 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874835-90-8

STORIES TO PLAY WITH

AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR

AUTHOR: Hiroko Fujita Fran Stallings
ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION

For storytellers who are just starting out, it seems appropriate to begin telling to young children. Yet young children present the most difficult audience a storyteller can face. So where does one begin? Simple. With some old newspaper and the story "Rain Hat" or "Mountain Climbing," children will be enthralled at the action of the young hero as you fold and tear and create mountains, hats, fans, and boats right before their very eyes. Or, take a milk carton and make a frog puppet to tell the story of the Little Wide-Mouthed Frog. This book was written and designed for beginning storytellers who work with young children. It is full of tales and how-to advice on entertaining and educating kindergarten and elementary students. The stories are fun and useful, put forth in a playful, informal family style of telling. Its user-friendly layout and design presents diagrams, instructions on movement and material construction, and entertaining stories. Most of the necessary materials can be found in your kitchen. Translated and adapted from the original Japanese, this resource has already proven itself a success in Hiroko Fujita's homeland. Now it is available to American storytellers for their use and their audiences' enjoyment.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** / **LEXILE:**

ISBNs

PAPERBACK: 978-0-874835-53-3 / **HARDCOVER:**

STORYTELLER'S GUIDE

AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR

AUTHOR: Bill Mooney David Holt

ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION

Ask a storyteller a question and in response you get a story. The interviews in this handbook are packed with well-chosen anecdotes, metaphors, and parables illuminating the art of storytelling as it is practiced today in many varied settings. Rather than representing the opinion of a single author, this comprehensive guide to storytelling features interviews with more than 50 storytellers, including teachers, librarians, authors, musicians, actors, clergymen, and full time professionals.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** / **LEXILE:**

ISBNS

PAPERBACK: 978-0-874834-82-6 / **HARDCOVER:**

STORYTELLER'S START-UP BOOK: FINDING, LEARNING, PERFORMING AND USING FOLKTALES

AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR

AUTHOR: Margaret Read MacDonald

ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION

For anyone who wants to begin storytelling but doesn't know where to start, The Storyteller's Start-Up Book offers almost any resource that one could ask for. Margaret Read MacDonald, a folklorist and respected children's librarian who also happens to be a touring storyteller as well as a prolific author, offers basic information on finding stories, looking at them critically, starting a "story bank," networking with other storytellers, and creating a storytelling event. In chapters on learning and performing folktales, MacDonald offers the reader suggestions for finding his or her own performance style. Most importantly, MacDonald presents twelve fool-proof tales that will work for the first-time storyteller. Arranged in ethnopoetic style to relay a sense of rhythm, the stories encourage audience participation and feature enough repetition to make them easy to remember. These multicultural tales selected from the folklore of Angola, Canada, Ghana, Nigeria, Siberia, Wales, and Zaire will delight any audience. The collection includes excellent bibliographies to help the new teller continue to explore the world of storytelling.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** / **LEXILE:**

ISBNS **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874833-05-8 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874833-04-1

STORYTELLING COACH: HOW TO LISTEN, PRAISE, AND BRING OUT PEOPLE'S BEST

**AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR** **AUTHOR:** Doug Lipman
ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION Lipman outlines his basic coaching principles, guidelines for emotional safety, the four primary obstacles to success, and suggestions for overcoming these challenges.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** / **LEXILE:**

ISBNS **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874834-34-5 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874834-35-2

STORYTIME STRETCHERS: TONGUE TWISTERS, CHORUSES, GAMES, AND CHARADES

**AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR** **AUTHOR:** Naomi Baltuck
ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION This resource book is full of activities that can be used during school, church, or youth programming to transform listeners into participants. Includes more than forty selections, including action songs, chants, tongue twisters, musical games, and audience participation tales.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** 0 / **LEXILE:**

ISBNS **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874838-05-3 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874838-04-6

TEACHING WITH STORY: CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS TO STORYTELLING

AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR

AUTHOR: Margaret Read MacDonald Jennifer MacDonald Whitman
Nathaniel Forrest Whitman

ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION

This invaluable resource book includes everything teachers and librarians need to know for using storytelling in their classrooms. It covers a range of topics known as the 7Cs including recommendations for using storytelling to enliven the curriculum, ways to develop literacy and language skills, models for building character, techniques for learning to tell stories, tips for teaching creativity and ways to build community. It even includes ready to tell tales with useful tips for "tellers" along with valuable references for teachers. It also correlates storytelling activities with the Common Core Standards.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** / **LEXILE:**

ISBNs

PAPERBACK: 978-1-939160-72-0 / **HARDCOVER:**

TELLING YOUR OWN STORIES

AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR

AUTHOR: Donald Davis

ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION

Telling Your Own Stories is designed for families, teachers, counselors, and anyone who wants to inspire storytelling either in themselves or in others. Through a series of memory prompts, the user is led through the creation of plots, of place, and of characters.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** / **LEXILE:**

ISBNs

PAPERBACK: 978-0-874832-35-8 / **HARDCOVER:**

TELL IT TOGETHER

AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR

AUTHOR: Barbara McBride-Smith

ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION Teachers seldom have the luxury of working with kids one-on-one to develop storytelling skills. Most work with their students in groups large and small. Story Theatre to the rescue! Media specialist and storyteller Barbara McBride-Smith calls this art form a near perfect vehicle for teaching folks of all ages how to tell stories.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** 3rd-4th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** 0 / **LEXILE:**

ISBNs **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874836-50-9 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874836-55-4

THREE-MINUTE TALES

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** Margaret Read MacDonald
ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION This global collection of 80 very short tales from Europe, Asia, the Americas and even a story from Africa include chants, scary ghost stories, humorous stories and more.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** 3rd-5th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** 0 / **LEXILE:** 590L

ISBNs **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874837-29-2 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-8748-3728-5

TOUCH MAGIC

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** Jane Yolen
ILLUSTRATOR: Wilhelm von Kaulbach

DESCRIPTION "Our children are growing up without their birthright: the myths, fairy tales, fantasies and folklore that are their proper legacy." The essays in Touch Magic, Jane Yolen's classic call-to-arms advocating the use of fantasy and folklore in children's literature, echo that statement. Yolen argues persuasively that fantasy, folklore, and the realm of story provide children with the necessary tools for facing the world, understanding its ways and capriciousness, indeed, becoming truly human. "I believe that culture begins in the cradle," she writes. "To do without tales and stories and books is to lose humanity's past, is to have no star map for our future." August

House now offers a richly expanded version of this seminal volume. With six new essays that tender fresh perspectives on the morality of fairy tales, time travel, the definition of story, and, of course, why such themes are essential to the development of today's children, *Touch Magic* heralds a new millennium of fantasy, myth, and storytelling. "Story is our wall against the dark," Yolen contends, and as adults, we must equip our children with story in order to keep them linked with the past and ready for the future. Touch magic, and pass it on.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** Z / **LEXILE:**

ISBN **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874835-91-5 / **HARDCOVER:**

WHOLE STORY HANDBOOK

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **AUTHOR:** Carol Birch
ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION Reading a story silently is a private act; hearing one told aloud is a communal act. Like musical scores that come to life when played, stories take on an added dimension when shared aurally. Carol Birch—storyteller, children's librarian, and teacher—tackles the slippery topic of the difference between memorizing a written story and reciting it aloud, and telling it directly and engagingly to a group of listeners. We all recognize the difference when we hear it. But how does one bridge it? The same way, Birch asserts, that we take home most prizes: you must be present to win. Meaning, the storyteller must know much, much more about the story than he or she tells. How can you communicate the fortunes of a character you don't know yourself? How can you convey a story whose setting you have not fully imagined? In addition to her own infectious prose—bursting with the "attitude" she encourages her readers to embrace—Birch provides a series of guided imagery exercises. These prompts walk the reader through the nuts and bolts of learning and imagining a story from the inside out in order to be fully present in its telling. Includes notes and bibliography.

READING LEVEL **INTEREST:** / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** / **LEXILE:**

ISBN **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874835-66-3 / **HARDCOVER:**

WHO SAYS?: ESSAYS ON PIVOTAL ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY STORYTELLING

AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR

AUTHOR: Carol Birch Melissa Heckler
ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION

In the last two decades, the storytelling movement has gained momentum, both as an educational tool and an entertainment form. However, the revival is so young that there is no common vocabulary for discussing it. Contemporary storytelling has its roots in the oral and literary traditions. Performances are often judged according to the aesthetics of print, theater or music even television and film.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** / **LEXILE:**

ISBNs

PAPERBACK: 978-0-874834-54-3 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874834-53-6

WRITING AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

AUTHOR &
ILLUSTRATOR

AUTHOR: Donald Davis
ILLUSTRATOR:

DESCRIPTION

“Stop talking! You’re supposed to be working on language!” —overheard in an elementary classroom by writer and storyteller Donald Davis. From the moment they are born, we encourage children to talk. We enunciate for them, applaud their expanding vocabularies, and hang on their every word. That is, until they enter school. At that time, we expect them to stop talking and measure their language abilities through a new medium: writing. While the educational system focuses on the written product as the sole measurement of language development, many children fail to measure up to established standards. Why? Because, Davis observes, writing is not our first communications tool; for most of us it functions as a “foreign language.” The problem is, individuals are not capable of “creating” or “thinking” within a foreign language. Davis argues that we must step back into our familiar “first” language—the spoken word—as our creative medium and learn to “translate” into that new foreign language called writing. With enough success, writing will eventually become a second language instead of a foreign language. When we talk about language arts in our school, we focus on reading and writing instead of nourishing the whole oral and kinesthetic package that is our spoken language. Davis argues that talking and writing need not be mutually exclusive in language development. In this book, he lays out the method he has used in countless residencies in schools across the United States, working with adults, teens, children, and teachers.

READING LEVEL

INTEREST: / FOUNTAS & PINNELL: / LEXILE:

ISBNs

PAPERBACK: 978-0-874835-67-0 / HARDCOVER:
