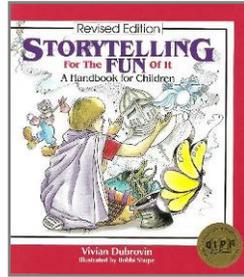


# The Kids' STORYTELLING CLUB

*Special Presentation!*



## **Book Excerpt**

Storytelling For the Fun Of It, By Vivian Dubrovin, Chapter 17

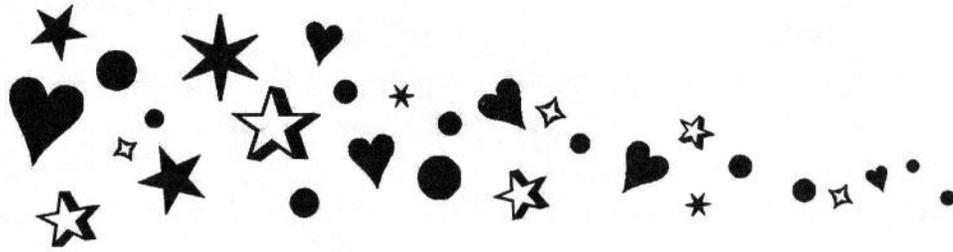
## **Learning From Other Storytellers**

The Kids' Storytelling Club is sponsored by Storycraft Publishing and provides online help for young storytellers, including craft ideas, activities, sample stories, and advice for creating and telling stories. These include new projects as well as favorites from Storycraft publications. *Storytelling For the Fun Of It* by Vivian Dubrovin, was published in 1994 and revised in 1999. Winner of the 1995 and 2000 Colorado Independent Publishers Award (CIPA), this storytelling manual provides timeless advice and examples of how and where young people could tell stories.

This chapter, "Mastering the Art," tells of ways to learn from other storytellers. The best way to become a storyteller is to tell stories, but you don't have to start from scratch. You can begin finding stories to tell by listening to storytellers. How did they do it? And what would you do the same, or differently? And if you're already a teller, you can get ideas how to improve your storytelling, or new ways to tell your favorite stories. (note: where it refers to "Chapter 2," you can find similar help in our online Club Activity Room)

Remember, for storytelling, you don't memorize and recite, you adapt and tell. So as you listen to tellers, think how you might adapt that to your audiences or use current technology to help you tell, or modify it to reflect your own experiences or ideas.

How do you find storytelling to listen to? Where are stories told? And how can you remember what ideas you found from each one? Read on to discover in these pages some secrets to learning the art of storytelling.



**CHAPTER 17** 

# **MASTERING THE ART**

- **Have you enjoyed telling a story?**
- **Would you like to tell more stories?**
- **Would you like to be a really good storyteller?**

Although you can read about where to tell stories, where to find stories, and how to adapt them, you must listen to live storytellers in order to master the art of storytelling.

## **Listen to Other Storytellers**

Many adults make their living as storytellers, while some tell stories only as a hobby. Look for storytellers at local festivals, library programs, park programs, or in your school.

When you are sitting in the audience listening to a live storyteller, you have a wonderful opportunity to study both the performer and the audience. What does the storyteller do to get the attention of the audience? How does he or she weave that magic spell?

What kind of body language do the storytellers use? Watch their arms, bodies, and heads. Watch their eyes. Do the movements help tell the story or create an image?

How does the audience respond? Do they help tell the story? Are they quiet and glued to every word? Do they jump in surprise at a sudden ending?

How do you feel? Are you so interested in the story that you forget to watch the storyteller?

How does the storyteller react to the audience?

### **Attend a Storytelling Festival**

One of the best places to find storytellers is at a storytelling festival. Every festival is different, full of surprises, and adventures.

#### ***At Large Regional Festivals in a Park***

During the spring, summer, and fall months, regional storytelling guilds hold festivals in parks.

When you attend one, you'll find many tents set up. Each tent holds a surprise. One will have a registration desk where you pay to attend. Another will have a storyteller telling stories. Most festivals have a tent where you can buy books and tapes to study later. And, one tent will sell refreshments.

At large festivals, you may find two or three storytelling tents. Each will have a storyteller who tells tales for about an hour. These festivals will have a printed program to tell you who is speaking where and when. Try to listen to as many storytellers as you can. (You may leave between stories, but remember never to walk out in the middle of a story. That is considered rude.)

#### ***At Small and Local Festivals***

Small festival may have only one storytelling tent with a program of local tellers.

Many city and county fairs are adding a storytelling tent along with their other activities. Small neighborhood parks often host a storyteller. In Loveland, Colorado, the public library sponsors a storyteller who travels to neighborhood parks with a different collection of stories each week during the summer.

#### ***Look for Festivals with Special Activities for Kids***

When you learn about an upcoming festival in your area, study the program or call the contact person to see if there will be special workshops for kids. Some festivals will have storytelling or puppetry workshops for kids.

### **Keep A Festival Scrapbook**

Although you think you'll remember a festival and the tellers for a long time, you may need something to help you remember the details next year when you are preparing for your own storytelling festival.

In a scrapbook or notebook, keep records of the festivals that you attend. Include advertising flyers and newspaper articles, the festival program, photos you take or pictures that you find or purchase.



## FESTIVAL SCRAPBOOK PAGE

★ Name of festival \_\_\_\_\_ ★

Where it was held \_\_\_\_\_ ★

★ Storytellers I heard \_\_\_\_\_

★ Stories I liked best \_\_\_\_\_

★ Props or musical instruments used \_\_\_\_\_ ★

★ Costumes used \_\_\_\_\_

How storyteller spoke \_\_\_\_\_ ★

★ Body movements used \_\_\_\_\_

★ Did storyteller ask audience to join in? How? \_\_\_\_\_

★ Things I could do in my storytelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Photocopy the Festival Scrapbook sheet on the previous page to use in your notebook. Make notes to answer the questions.

When you need ideas for a storytelling project at school, open your notebook, flip through the mementos and read over your notes.

Treasure all the ideas you gather.

### **Watch Videos of Storytellers**

Because it is so easy to get caught up in a story during a live performance, you may not be able to watch everything a storyteller does. Watching the “reruns” on a video tape can give you a chance to study exactly what the teller does.

If you watch a storyteller tell the story again, you will see something different, because each telling is a new event. Videos capture only one telling so you can study it closely. It is the same as football players reviewing game tapes to improve their play.

### **Listen to Audio Tapes**

Audio tapes present stories with voice alone. Sometimes there may be a few sound effects. There is no audience and no body language to help create the image.

Listen for changes in the storyteller’s voice. Does he or she use a different voice for each character? Does he or she speak loudly, then softly? How does the speed of talking make you feel?

Long car rides are wonderful times to enjoy storytelling audio tapes. Later, take the tapes into your room and play them again and again to study how the storyteller uses voice to accomplish so many things.

### **Story Swapping**

If you want to be a storyteller, you must tell stories. Look for every opportunity to tell a story. Sign up for workshops. Join a storytelling club. Have a storytelling party.

Tell your stories. Listen and trade. Are other storyteller—adults or children—telling a story you would like to use? Talk to them. Tell them you’d like to use it, too. Storytellers swap tales all the time. A story swap might be just a casual meeting with friends. It can be any of the places listed in Chapter 2, any place you tell or listen to a story. It can be an opportunity to collect a new idea.

### **Creating Story Collections**

As you swap stories with other storytellers, you will build your own story collection. How do you keep a story collection? How do you organize it? How do you remember which story is which?

Some storytellers have a special box in which they keep written copies, notes, and tapes of their experiences. Some storytellers keep journals or scrapbooks of their storytelling adventures.

Many storytellers are very creative in how they advertise the stories they like and want to tell. One of these creative people decorated a sweatshirt with story symbols, one for each story. Another person painted story symbols on buttons which he wore on a hat. Another storyteller had a bracelet of storytelling charms. When the collection became too long for a bracelet, she created a necklace.

Make story collecting as much fun as storytelling itself.

# L Looking for More

Storytelling Ideas, Activities, Crafts, Sample Stories, and Advice?

We hope you've enjoyed this project from one of our classic storytelling publications, presented to you by The Kids' Storytelling Club. At the Club you'll find similar storytelling fun, with new ideas and tips, as well as timeless favorites like this, all to help young storytellers, like you!

Come join us!

The Kids'  
STORYTELLING  
CLUB

[www.storycraft.com](http://www.storycraft.com)

Storycraft Publishing for many years has been helping kids tell stories. *Storytelling For the Fun Of It* was published when we were located in Masonville, Colorado. You won't find us there anymore, we're now in Loveland, Colorado. But we're still at our same online home, [www.storycraft.com](http://www.storycraft.com). Or send us an email: [info@storycraft.com](mailto:info@storycraft.com)

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