

# Why Use Storytelling as a Teaching Tool?

- 1. Storytelling is the oldest form of education.** Cultures have always told tales as a way of passing down beliefs, traditions, and history to future generations. Stories are at the core of all that makes us human.
- 2. Stories are the way we store information in the brain.** A list of facts will be forgotten, but stories are remembered. Stories help us to organize information, and tie content together.
- 3. Stories go straight to the heart.** Because students are emotionally involved and truly enjoy storytelling, it can help to create a positive attitude toward the learning process.
- 4. There is a difference between telling and reading.** Without the book as a barrier, the teller looks directly into the eyes of the audience and is free to use gestures, facial expression, and body movements to enhance the telling and help children understand the story better. The reader sees only the words on the page, while the storyteller sees the wonder and excitement on the faces of the listeners.
- 5. Listening to stories instills the love of language in children and motivates them to read.**
- 6. Storytelling stimulates the imagination.** Scientist Albert Einstein said that "imagination is more important than knowledge."
- 7. Stories teach lessons.** Stories are excellent tools for teaching about desirable behaviors and strengthening character.
- 8. Storytelling develops listening skills.** Storytelling helps students develop concentration, and the pure pleasure that they experience while listening to a story helps them to associate listening with enjoyment.
- 9. Stories act as a humanizing element.** They help to counteract the increasing emphasis on technology at home and in school.
- 10. Telling stories from around the world creates an awareness and appreciation of different cultures.**
- 11. Storytelling by teachers motivates students to tell stories.** Students recognize storytelling to be an authentic activity, and a skill that is well-worth acquiring. We have found this to be true whether they are telling world tales, works by other authors, or their own stories. But you, the teacher, *must* model for them.

## **You don't have to tell a story perfectly or very dramatically to be successful!**

Students of all ages love stories and are very forgiving audiences. After watching us tell stories, teachers often say: "Look at how quiet those kids were; they were mesmerized." We tell them it's not us creating the "hush." It's the stories. If you choose a story you really love and tell it from the heart, you'll have that great attention, too.

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