



A STORY is a SHARING of experience -- real or imagined
So it takes TWO to make a story come alive --
A WRITER and a READER or
A STORYTELLER and a LISTENER

NAME: _____

ROOM: _____

STORY TITLE: _____

Dear Parent,

The Annual Fulton City Storytelling Event will begin in November with your child selecting a story, and continue through February with your child learning and telling his/her story.

Students in grades 3 through 12 will have an opportunity to learn and tell a story that has been approved by their teacher-librarian and classroom teacher.

Students will participate on four levels:

Level I -	3rd and 4th grade
Level II -	5th and 6th grade
Level III -	7th and 8th grade
Level IV -	9th through 12th grade

The first part of the program is a classroom competition to be held January 25th through January 29th. Winners of the classroom competition next compete on the building level competition to be scheduled between February 1st and February 5th. These winners meet for a district level storytelling festival on February 8th. Should it be necessary to reschedule due to weather, the festival will be held February 10th. The district event will continue to be a festival rather than a contest as in previous years. During the festival, the winners from each building will showcase their storytelling talent. Building and district events may be videotaped.

You will find details about storytelling included in this packet. If you have any questions, or desire more information, please contact your child's teacher-librarian or classroom teacher. We would be happy to hear from you. Your support and encouragement will make this a unique, valuable, and rewarding experience for your child.

Sincerely,

Fulton City School District Teacher-Librarians

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2010 STORYTELLING DATES

Classroom or Grade Level Competition January 25th through January 29th

Building Level Competition February 1st through February 5th

District Festival February 8th

Snow Date February 10th

GOALS OF THE STORYTELLING PROGRAM

-  To increase student's self-esteem
-  To develop poise and confidence in speaking before a group
-  To develop and enhance the student's listening and memorization
-  To extend and strengthen language development and literacy skills
-  To heighten student's appreciation of literature

STORYTELLING RULES

1. Eligible participants include Fulton School District students in grades 3-12.
2. Poems are not acceptable: stories must be in prose.
 - A story may have a rhyming chant in places, but the overall story should not be in rhyme.
3. Acceptable stories include: Folktales, Fairytales, Myths, Legends, Tall Tales and Fables.
 - See Acceptable Types of Stories on the next page for fuller explanation.
4. Storyteller must know the story.
 - Storytellers do not have to memorize the story word for word. They should know the story well enough to be able to tell it smoothly, and without stumbling over words or forgetting key elements of the story.
5. There is no requirement on the minimum / maximum length.
 - It is recommended the story last no longer than 10 minutes - 10 minutes seems long enough for storytellers to *hold an audience's attention*.
6. Gestures (not theatrics!) may be used, but should be natural and appropriate to the story.
 - Gestures used should contribute to rather than detract from the delivery of the story.
7. The storyteller must tell the story without use of any written material, costumes, or props.
 - Focus is on the storyteller's rendition of the story.
8. Participants may not tell a story they told in past contests at any level of competition.
 - Students should learn to enjoy telling many good stories, not just the one they told last year or in previous years.
9. Each storyteller must tell his/her story alone.
 - This is a program for individuals to tell a story - not for group participation.

ACCEPTABLE TYPES OF STORIES

Types of acceptable stories are: folktales, fairytales, myths, legends, tall tales and fables. Stories must be approved by the librarian and the classroom teacher. Stories must be taken from a published/copyrighted source.

Students will be guided to appropriate stories. "Appropriate", refers to trying to match a story in terms of length and difficulty to the child's interest, capabilities and experience.

FOLKTALES: All forms of narratives, written or oral, which have come to be handed down through the ages. They have no known authors, strictly speaking, but many collectors and compilers.
Example: Anansi's Narrow Waist, an African folktale.

FAIRYTALES: A particular type of folktale that takes place in an unreal world without definite locality or time ("Once upon a time..."); contains elements of magic and supernatural happenings.
Example: Collections by Grimm, Jacobs, Perrault, etc.

MYTHS: A myth is a narrative that tells of origin, explains natural or social phenomena, or suggests the destiny of humans through the interaction of people and supernatural beings.
Norse, Greek, Hawaiian, etc. - any country's/culture's myths).

LEGEND: Claims to be an account of an extraordinary happening believed to have actually occurred. It may recount a legend of something that happened in a past time at a particular place.
Example: "Johnny Appleseed", ghost stories.
Legends may also include and how-and-why stories (pour quoi stories). Example: The Long Tailed Bear and Other Indian Legends, by Natalie M. Belting.

TALL TALES: Tales of lies and exaggerations.
Examples: "Paul Bunyan", "Pecos Bill."

FABLES: An animal tale with an acknowledged moral purpose. The moral purpose is the essential quality that distinguishes the fable from other animal tales. Examples: Collection of Aesop and Kipling's Just-So Stories.

LEARNING YOUR STORY

When your story has been approved you are ready to begin learning it. There are many things you can do to learn your story.

- ✓ Read your story silently several times. Try to see the characters and action in your mind.
- ✓ Read the story aloud two or three times each day for the first week. You might try reading it aloud before you go to school, after school, and just before you go to bed.
- ✓ Have someone read your story aloud to you.
- ✓ Use a tape recorder to tape your story.
- ✓ Make an outline of your story.

Start telling your story as soon as you can visualize it.

- ✓ You may want to memorize the opening paragraph or beginning of your story so that you get off to a good start.
- ✓ You may want to memorize any other important parts or phrases of your story that must be said exactly and/or repeated.

Tell your story again and again. The more you tell your story the more it becomes a part of you. Tell your story at a normal pace; do not race through it.

TELLING YOUR STORY

1. Say Your Name and The Title of Your Story.
2. Pause Before You Begin Your Story - Look at your audience and make sure you have their attention before you begin. Think of the first line of your story, take a deep breath, release it, and begin your story.
3. Enunciation and Pronunciation - Speak clearly, distinctly, and pronounce words correctly.
4. Eye-To-Eye Contact - It is important to be able to see everyone and for everyone to be able to see you. When you look at your audience, you involve them in your story.
5. Know Your Story - It is important to know your story well enough to be able to tell it smoothly, without stumbling over words or forgetting important parts of the story. If you do forget your story, don't panic! Pause, picture where you are in the story and pick it up again.
6. Pacing - Tell your story at a comfortable pace - not too fast and not too slow. Use pauses, at just the right moment, for just the right length of time - to provide a feeling of suspense and anticipation.
7. Poise - Feeling nervous is normal. Feel your feet on the ground. It helps to take a deep breath, look around at your audience in a friendly way... Remember you have a story to share. If you use gestures, they should feel comfortable to you and make your telling of the story better.
8. Voice - Project your voice so the person in the last row of your audience can hear you.
Use your voice to help express your story. (E.g.: surprise, sadness, happiness, disappointment, etc.)

BE DYNAMIC - PUT YOURSELF INTO THE TELLING!

TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATE.....

- 📖 Remember to smile!
- 📖 Say "thank you" to all who congratulate you.
- 📖 Be gracious about telling your story at home, at school, out in the community.
- 📖 Congratulate the others who took part in the contest.
- 📖 Remember that kind, helpful words are the **ONLY** acceptable comments when you mention the presentation of others.

Fulton City School District
Judging Rubric for Storytelling

	Criteria				Points
	4	3	2	1	
Body Language	Effective and appropriate use of body language, facial expressions, and gestures throughout the story	Some appropriate use of body language, facial expressions, and gestures	Very little use of appropriate body language, facial expressions and/or gestures appropriate to story	Inappropriate use of body language, facial expressions and/or gestures	—
Eye Contact	Consistent use of direct eye contact with audience	Some use of eye contact with audience	Minimal eye contact with audience	No eye contact with audience	—
Pacing	Tells story at a comfortable pace	Maintains a comfortable pace throughout most of the story	Maintains a comfortable pace throughout some of the story	Does not tell story at a comfortable pace	—
Poise	Displays relaxed, self-confident nature about self	Displays little or no tension	Displays mild tension	Tension and nervousness is obvious	—
Voice	Story is told with vocal expression / inflection	Story is told with moderate expression / inflection	Story is told with little vocal expression / inflection	Story is told without vocal expression	—
Volume	Loud clear voice throughout the story	Loud clear voice throughout most of the story	Voice difficult to hear during most of story	Could not hear student	—
Knowledge of Story	Knows story and tells with no mistakes	Knows story but makes minor mistakes	Knows some of the story and has some trouble recovering from mistakes	Does not know the story and has trouble recovering from mistakes	—
				Total---->	—

Notes:

Judge's Name _____

City of Fulton Storytelling Contest 2010

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING STORYTELLING

- A. Storyteller is required to know the story; word-for-word memorization, however, is not necessary.
- B. Storyteller must tell the story without use of any written materials or props.
- C. The maximum length of the presentation should be 10 minutes (12 minutes for Level IV). Stories will be timed and those over the maximum for their level will have 10 points deducted from their total.
- D. Stories may be either: fairytales, folktales, myths, legends, tall tales, or fables. A rhyming story may not be used. If a story does not meet the Guidelines, the storyteller will be disqualified.
- E. Items 1-10 on the scale below will be rated from 1-10 points.

Maximum: 100 points

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
1. Does the Storyteller pronounce the words correctly and clearly?										
2. Does the Storyteller speak loudly enough to be heard by the audience?										
3. Is voice inflection used to enhance/interpret the story?										
4. Does the Storyteller maintain good eye contact by looking at the audience?										
5. Does the Storyteller know the story?										
6. Does the Storyteller tell the story at a comfortable pace?										
7. Is the Storyteller composed? Does he or she avoid using distracting mannerisms?										
8. Are body language, facial expressions, and gestures effective and appropriate to the story?										
9. Does the Storyteller hold the attention of the audience throughout the story?										
10. Overall Presentation/Captivating Quality.										

Title of Story _____

Total

Student's Name _____

Level _____