



New Mexico and the World

Curriculum Resources for New Mexico Teachers



'LORD OF THE WOODS': Storytelling Pantanal Style

I want my students to understand the art of storytelling by experience and through that experience gain an appreciation of the art.

Submitted by: Ed Kerr

Grade Level: 9-12

Area: Language Arts; Arts

Strand(s): Reading and Listening for Comprehension

NM Benchmark(s): LANGUAGE ARTS:

I-A: Listen to, read, react to, and analyze information;

II-A: Communicate information in a coherent and persuasive manner using verbal and non-verbal language;

III-A: Use language, literature, and media to understand the role of the individual as a member of many cultures.

ARTS:

Content Standard 1: Learn and develop the essential skills and technical demands unique to dance, music, theatre/drama, and visual arts.

Content Standard 2: Use dance, music, theatre/drama, and visual arts to express ideas.

Length: 1-2 days

of Students:

Learning Objectives: Understand the basics of storytelling and then experience their own storytelling.

Introduction: Good listening skills, an imagination, and the ability to put aside the fear of performing in front of your peers.

Materials: Story props are optional as would fit the style or selection of the story.

Procedures: Use instructional time to prepare students for their story by using material from good resources such as: Effective Storytelling: A manual for beginners by Barry McWilliams at <http://www.eldrbarry.net/roos/eest.htm> or Storytelling Activities

& Lesson Ideas at <http://www.storyarts.org/lessonplans/lessonideas/>. Students then must find their story they wish to tell keeping in mind good characteristics of a story: single theme, well developed plot, vivid word pictures, dramatic appeal, and appropriateness to listeners.

In preparing for their story students need to spend time with it—reading the story several times, living with the story, visualizing it, telling it over and over in their mind, replaying or rewording important lines with emphasis or pauses. Delivery is the most important part of a good story: Deliver with sincerity, enthusiasm, and especially animation in your gestures, voice, and facial expressions. Have students read the story from the introduction on Pantanal Culture entitled "Lord of the Woods" as told by a local pantaneiro from Miranda, Mata Grosso do Sul, Brazil. Make note the story is in his own words, not necessarily proper vocabulary or sentence structure, but connecting the listener to a moment of great fear and excitement.

One source for stories is grandparents or older folks with a rich history of your area or culture that like to share stories from the past.

Background Info:

**References-
Resources:**

<http://www.eldrbarry.net/roos/eest.htm>

<http://www.storyarts.org/lessonplans/lessonideas/>

<http://www.startupjournal.com/ideas/services/20030730-bennett.html>

Student Activities:

Assessment:

Use the storytelling rubric to measure mastery of the skill.

STORYTELLING RUBRIC: Evaluate students as either: Beginner, Intermediate, Proficient, or Accomplished in each of the following “Effective Storytelling Performance Skills” Developed by Heather Forest
<http://www.storyarts.org/classroom/usestories/storyrubric.html>

When telling a story, an effective storyteller demonstrates the following traits observable by others:

VOICE MECHANICS

Speaks with an appropriate volume for the audience to hear. Employs clear enunciation. Uses non-monotonous, vocal expression to clarify the meaning of the text.

FACE/BODY/GESTURE

Expressively uses non-verbal communication to clarify the meaning of the text.

FOCUS

Concentration is clear.

Eye contact with audience is engaging.

Maintains a charismatic presence in space (stage presence).

CHARACTERIZATION

If dialogue is employed, characters are believable to listener.

Storyteller's natural voice is differentiated from character voices.

USE OF SPACE

Storyteller seems comfortable, relaxed and confident in front of listeners.

Storyteller maintains clear spatial relationships for characters and narrator.

PACING

The story is presented efficiently and keeps listeners' interest throughout.

EFFECTIVE STORYTELLING COMPOSITION

Basic Story Structure

Story has a clear and engaging opening.

Story's sequence of events is easy for the listener to follow.

Story's ending has a sense of closure.

WORDS

Teller's choice of language is descriptive and articulate.

If dialogue is employed, the teller's character text is clearly differentiated from the narrator's text so that the listener understands who is talking.

INNOVATION

Teller employs a unique or creative use of language, sound, or body language.

Teller creatively presents the sequence of events.

Teller's perception of the meaning of the story is artfully expressed or suggested through the telling.

Technology Integration:

Accommodations:

Review Questions:

Related Careers:

An excellent article by Julie Bennett in the Wall Street Journal
<http://www.startupjournal.com/ideas/services/20030730-bennett.html>
titled 'Spin Straw Into Gold With Good Storytelling' looks at a career in
storytelling as well as careers that are enhanced by good storytelling ability.

Career Education:

Hints and Tips:

Lesson Evaluation: