

Dee Ni Tall Tales

Storytelling: “A unique oral interpretation of a story that combines personal talents, research, rehearsal, and above all, heart.”

Reasons for Storytelling

- To entertain people
- To share
- To show people how to listen
- To help people understand other cultures
- To teach an appreciation for the spoken language
- To teach a lesson
- To bridge gaps (old/young, gender, ethnic, religious)
- To bring literature to life
- To pass stories on to the next generation
- To exercise the imagination

Helpful Hints

- If you are nervous you will talk too fast or too slow. Breathe, pause, but don't overdo it.
- When you go blank—breathe, and keep the description going until you remember.
- Props are ok as long as they don't detract. They need to be appropriate and simple.
- Try to avoid nervous habits – “And” and “Um” that always begins a sentence or voice inflection that always goes up or always goes down.
- Don't look at the floor; make eye contact.
- Be aware of your surroundings and where your audience is facing. For example is it toward a window where activity might distract them.
- Allow yourself to have imperfections.

Vocabulary:

Connect (join together)	lhee
Share (giving)	way-'vsh (giving)
Listener	ch'uu-setlh-ts'an'-ne
Understand	yulh-ts'it
Speaker	na'-'aa-nn
Teach	me'-xwvtlh-yan'
Imagine (Think about something)	nay-srit-'a
Dream	ch'an'-ghee-lvlh
Fast	xan'
Slow	duu-xan'
Loud	chu'-yvstlh-'an'
Quiet	duu-chaa-k'wer'sh
Perfect	shu'
Imperfect	duu- shu'

Phrases:

I am listening	ch'uu-seshthl-ts'an'
You are listening	ch'uu-sinthl-ts'an'
He/she/it is listening	ch'uu-setlh-ts'an'
They are listening	xwii-chuu-setlh-ts'an'
We are listening	ch'uu-sitlh-ts'an'
I am telling a story	natlh-sri dvsh-nvn
You are telling a story	natlh-sri 'antlh-t'in
He/She/It is telling a story	natlh-sri 'aylh-nvn
They are telling a story	natlh-sri xee-'aytlh-nvn
We are telling a story	natlh-sri 'aa-witlh-nvn
You breathe	tint-yer'sh
You speak	naa-chii--'a
You forget	maa~-ghinthl-nak
I forgot	maa~-ghvshtlh-nak
He/She/It forgot	maa~-ghvtlh-nak
You look at us	nee-yu tr'vn ninlh-'i~