



Powerful Literacy Center's Storytelling Contest

Saturday, January 23, 2010, 2:00-4:00pm
 Auditorium, Sheridan Parkside Community Center, 169 Sheridan Parkside
 Dr, Tonawanda

Storytelling Evaluation Form

Category/Grade _____

Storyteller(s) _____

Story _____

Time: _____

(One point deducted for every 30 seconds over 5 minutes)

0 1 2 3 4 5

Not at All	Very Weak	Fair	Good	Very Good	Strong
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Criteria	Points						Comments
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Choice of Story Appropriateness for storytelling Held interest of audience							
Memory Does the story flow smoothly from start to finish?							
Projection Voice quality clear and distinct							
Diction Correct enunciation and pronunciation of words							
Personality Reflected mood of story Expressive							
Poise Is the storyteller relaxed? Eye contact made with audience							
Time Story must be 5 minutes or less!							
OVERALL PRESENTATION							
TOTAL POINTS	/40 Points						



Literacy Empowerment Action Plan of WNY, Inc.

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Rules & Regulations

Aim

- Strengthen participants' confidence in speaking in front of an audience.
- Make English learning fun through storytelling.
- Stimulate participants' creativity and improve their oral presentation skills.

Categories

Contestants can choose to tell their stories individually or partner **with one other** storyteller. Parents are encouraged to enter the Partners competition with their child. Other family members and adults are also encouraged to partner with a child.

Individual

1. Kindergarten to Grade 3
2. Grade 4 to Grade 6
3. Grade 7 to grade 12

Partners

4. All Ages (**adults must be partnered with a school-age child**)

Eligibility of Players

- ✓ Individual storytellers should choose the category that corresponds to their grade in the 2009-2010 academic year.
- ✓ Adults can only participate in the **Partners competition** and must be paired with a **school-age child**.
- ✓ Storytellers are **not allowed** to participate in **more than** one category.

Tasks

- Storytellers must finish presenting their story within 5 minutes.
- Storytellers must present a story from a published source, such as folk tales, fairy tales, fables, and short stories.

Judging Criteria

- ✓ Choice of Story: Was the story appropriate for storytelling? Did it hold the interest of the audience? The story must be from a published source. Folk and fairy tales, fables, and short stories are the most appropriate selections for storytelling. Picture book stories that rely on the illustrations for comprehension and adaptations of novels are inappropriate choices. Original stories are not eligible for competition and evaluation.

- ✓ Memory: How well did the storyteller know and deliver the story? Was he or she prepared? Was the delivery smooth? The story should not be memorized word for word (unless it is a poem). The story should flow when told and the person should not have to stop and think of what comes next.
- ✓ Projection: Was the storyteller's voice clear and distinct? Was the audience able to hear the story? The storyteller should project his/her voice so that all can hear. No electronic amplification is used.
- ✓ Diction: Did the storyteller demonstrate correct enunciation and pronunciation of words? The storyteller should enunciate carefully and use his/her voice effectively.
- ✓ Personality: Did the storyteller reflect the mood of the story? Did the storyteller use expression to bring the characters to life? The flavor of the story should be brought out by the storyteller's presentation (i.e., humorous story, scary story, tall tale).
- ✓ Poise: Was the storyteller relaxed? Did the storyteller make good eye contact?
- ✓ Costumes & Accessories: Traditionally, storytelling is an oral narrative art form. No costumes are necessary. Staged puppet shows and theatrical dramas are not permitted.
- ✓ Time limit: The story must fit within a **5-minute time limitation**. Did the storyteller go over the time limit? Was the story cut too short to effectively tell the whole story? Was it clear to the audience that the story was over?
- ✓ The decision of the judges is final

Prizes and Prize Presentation

- One winner will be chosen in each of the four categories.
- One prize will be awarded to each of the winners in the Individual categories.
- Two prizes will be awarded to the winner of the Partner category, one for each participant.
- Every contestant will receive a certificate of participation
- All prize winners **MUST** be present at the award ceremony in neat attire in order to receive the prize.

Time & Venue

The competition will be held in the Sheridan Parkside Community Center's auditorium on **Saturday, January 23, 2010 from 2:00-4:00pm.**

Closing Dates

- ✓ Storytellers must register for the contest in advance.
- ✓ Parents must give permission for their child to participate by signing the registration form.
- ✓ Registration forms can be picked up at LEAP's Powerful Literacy Center in the Sheridan Parkside Community Center, room 103.
- ✓ The registration form can also be downloaded from LEAP's website: www.leapofwny.org.
- ✓ The closing date for registration is **January 19, 2010 at 8:00pm.**
- ✓ For further queries, you may contact the Powerful Literacy Center at **874-5327** or email at gillian@leapofwny.org.



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Saturday, January 23, 2010, 2:00-4:00pm

Registration Deadline: January 19, 2010

Return to: LEAP of WNY's Powerful Literacy Center & Library,
Sheridan Parkside Community Center, 169 Sheridan Parkside Dr,
Tonawanda, Room 103

REGISTRATION FORM (please register each child individually)

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Email: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Home Phone: _____

School: _____

Name of Story: _____

Competition Category:

- Kindergarten to Grade 3 (Individual) - Grade 4 to Grade 6 (Individual)
 - Grade 7 to Grade 12 (individual) - Partners (all ages, adults must be paired with a child)

Name of Partner (if applicable) _____

Relationship to Partner (if applicable) _____

In case of emergency, please contact _____

at _____ . Relationship: _____

INDEMNITY CLAUSE

(To be filled in should the registrant be less than 18 years old)

I, _____ (Name), the parent /guardian of
_____ hereby declare that permission is
given to my child / ward to participate in the Powerful Literacy Center's storytelling contest.

Signature of Parent / Guardian

Date



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HANDOUT: Basic Storytelling Techniques to Keep In Mind

Memory:

- The story should not be memorized word for word. The story should flow when told; the teller should not have to stop to think about what comes next.
- However, memorize the first and last lines of the story for a comfortable start and a smooth finish.
- If you goof, keep going. Just pause, take a deep breath, and continue. Don't interrupt the flow of the story by apologizing or starting over.
- If you skip part of the story, just work it in when it fits. For example, if in telling "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" you forgot to mention that the grass was all eaten up on the goats' side of the river, have the first goat say to the troll, "It's me, the little Billy Goat Gruff, and I want to cross the bridge to go eat the grass on the other side because there is no more grass on this side."

Vocal quality:

- **Projection:** the storyteller should speak so that all can hear.
- **Diction:** the storyteller should enunciate carefully and use her/his voice effectively.
- **Speed:** not too fast and not too slow.

Personality:

- The flavor of the story should be brought out by the storyteller's presentation; i.e., humorous story, scary story, tall tale.
- Voices should be used effectively to bring the characters to life. However, do not use more than three different voices in one story.
- Use plenty of expression. Your voice should show when characters are sad, happy, frightened, sleepy, etc. You will lose the listener's interest if you speak in a monotone.
- Vary your volume and speed. Use pauses effectively.
- Add some movement to add interest to the story and emphasize key plot points and actions. However, do not act out the story.

Poise:

- The teller should be relaxed while presenting. Beware of nervous habits, such as playing with hair, shuffling feet.
- The teller should make good eye contact. If you have a hard time looking audience members directly in the eye, look at their foreheads.

General:

- Always introduce yourself and your story before you begin. Plant your feet firmly on the ground. Look around at the audience, take a deep breath, and then say: "My name is _____, and I'm going to tell you the story of _____," or any appropriate introduction.
- Wait for the audience to finish applauding before you return to your seat. Take a short bow if you'd like, and say, "**Thank you.**"
- **Always credit the source of your story.**



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Story Summary Worksheet

NAME: _____

The name of the story I want to tell is _____

from (book/author) _____

The country or culture that my story comes from is _____

Where does the story take place? _____

List the main characters and a few words to describe each:

What is the beginning? _____

What is the problem? _____

What is the middle? _____

List events in order: _____

What is the climax or most exciting part? _____

What is the end? _____

What is the main idea? _____

List phrases that should be memorized _____

What are the closing lines that end the story? _____

Draw your storyboard or story map here: