



Genesee Valley Educational Partnership  
*success stories written here*



# Storytelling Handbook

Storytelling Festival 2019

Sponsored by the School Library System



**School Library System**  
& Library/Media Services  
**Christopher Harris, Coordinator**  
80 Munson St. Le Roy NY 14482  
Phone: (585) 344-7946 or 658-7946  
Fax: (585) 344-7689 or 658-7689

Melisa Swain, Program Assistant  
Andrew Austin, Library Specialist  
Andrea Fetterly, Library Specialist  
Brian Mayer, Library Specialist  
Emilee Williamson, Library Specialist

January 2019

Greetings,

The time has come to prepare for the annual Storytelling Festival sponsored by the School Library System of the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership. This year's festival promises to be a rich learning experience for your child. Children who participate in the festival build language skills and gain self-confidence and poise as they experience the thrill of telling a story to an audience. We invite you and your child to participate in this year's festival. It is always educational and fun!

The Storytelling Festival is open to all students in grades 3 through 8. Selected students will meet at the festival on Thursday, March 28, 2019, 6:00-8:00 p.m., at Pavilion Central Middle/High School, 7014 Big Tree Road, Pavilion. All students who participate in the Storytelling Festival on May 10 will receive a medallion at the end of the festival during the recognition ceremony.

Your child's library media specialist and classroom teacher have the materials your child will need to prepare for the Storytelling Festival. They would be happy to hear from you if you have any questions or need more information. There is a ten minute time limit on stories but that does not mean each student must use the full ten minutes. The story chosen should be appropriate for the grade level and age of your child.

On behalf of the library media specialists and teachers involved in the Storytelling Festival, thank you for encouraging your child to become a storyteller. We look forward to seeing you at the festival this year!

Sincerely,

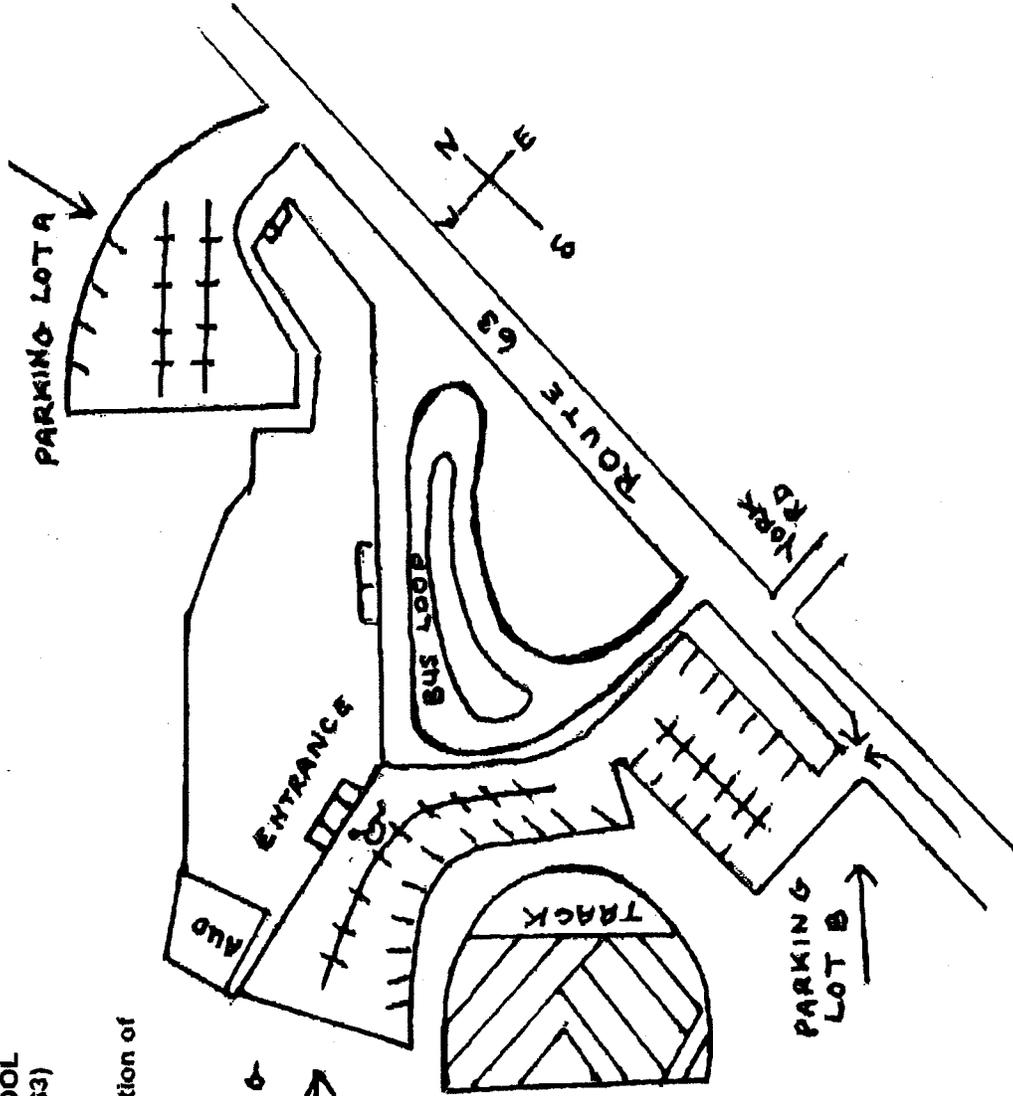
School Library System  
Genesee Valley Educational Partnership

Christopher Harris  
SLS Coordinator

Melisa Swain  
Program Assistant

**PAVILION MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL**  
7014 BIG TREE ROAD (Route 63)  
PAVILION, NY 14525

1/4 Mile south from the intersection of  
Route 63 and Route 19



**PARKING INSTRUCTIONS**

- Enter campus from the southern driveway.
- Cars can park in parking lots B and C.
- Handicap parking is available across from the entrance.
- Please use parking lots B and C.
- Do not use parking lot A unless the other lots are full.

## CHECKLIST FOR STORYTELLING COORDINATORS

- Distribute storytelling handbooks to teachers and discuss the festival with them.
- Review guidelines, objectives, timetable, etc. with participating teachers.
- Distribute storytelling handbooks to participants in your building.
- Refer to the guidelines in our storytelling handbook concerning any non-traditional stories. If you have questions about finding stories to tell, a question on a particular story, or questions about the story-learning process, contact Rick Merritt, professional storyteller, ricomerritt53@gmail.com. Rick is a retired elementary teacher from Byron-Bergen CSD.
- Work with classroom teachers to encourage time for storytelling practice.
- Coordinate a selection process within your building to choose your festival storytellers. An evaluation form found in the storytelling handbook can be used as a guide to evaluate students.
- Conduct building level selections *before Tuesday, March 5, 2019*.
- **Select a maximum of 12 entries to represent your building at the storytelling festival.** An entry is either a single student performing alone or a pair of students performing in tandem. These should be your most accomplished storytellers. It is not a requirement that each grade level be represented.
- **Complete the online registration found on the School Library System Web site no later than Friday, March 15, 2019. This information will be forwarded to Melisa Swain, School Library System at Genesee Valley Educational Partnership, to create the festival program. Please be sure the information is accurate.**

**If you are unable to fill out this form online, please fax the form to Melisa Swain at 344-7689 or 658-7689. Call if you need a registration form sent to you.**

**Questions? Please call Melisa Swain at 344-7688 or 658-7688.**

- Remind storytellers from your building of the festival date, time, and place.

**Thursday, March 28, 2019  
6-8 p.m.  
Pavilion Central Middle/High School  
7014 Big Tree Road (Route 63)  
Pavilion, NY**

# GUIDELINES FOR STORYTELLING PREPARATION

## CHOOSING YOUR STORY

All students in grades 3 through 8 are welcome to participate.

The story you tell must be one of the following kinds of stories: **Folk Tale, Fairy Tale, Myth, Legend, Fable or Tall Tale.**

You may find your story by:

1. Talking to your school or public librarian or teacher.
2. Browsing in the folk tale and fairy tale section (call # 398.2) or mythology section (call #292) of your school or public library.
3. Read several stories before you choose.
4. It may take you a few trips to the library to find your story.

**Choose a story you really enjoy and want to share with others.  
Choose a story that you feel comfortable telling.**

Remember the story you tell must be one of these:

**FOLK TALE:** This category includes all forms of narratives, written or oral, which have been handed down generation to generation and belong to a particular culture. Folk tales have no known authors. Examples include Native American, African, Irish, American South, and Chinese stories.

**FAIRY TALE:** A particular type of folk tale taking place in an unreal world. It contains elements of magic and supernatural happenings and is sometimes called a “wonder tale.” Examples: Collections by Grimm, Jacobs, Lang, and Perrault.

**MYTH:** A myth is a narrative describing origin, explaining natural or social phenomena or predicting the destiny of humans through the interaction of people and supernatural beings. Examples of myths come from Norse, Greek, Roman and Egyptian cultures. Many of the constellation stories are myths.

**LEGEND:** A legend is an account of an extraordinary happening believed to have actually occurred. It may recount a legend of something which happened in a past time and at a particular place. Examples: “Robin Hood,” “William Tell,” “King Arthur,” “Davy Crockett” and ghost stories. Many Native American stories are legends.

**FABLE:** A fable is a short story that teaches a lesson. Many fables are animal stories. Examples: Collections of Aesop and LaFontaine.

**TALL TALE:** Tall tales are stories of exaggerations and lies. Examples: “Paul Bunyan,” “Pecos Bill,” “Mike Fink,” and “Slew Foot Sue.”

When you have found a story that seems just right for you, check with your librarian or teacher to make sure your story follows the festival guidelines.

## **FESTIVAL GUIDELINES**

- A storyteller must learn the story from a published version. Word-for-word memorization is not required and not encouraged.
- Storytellers must tell the story without the use of any written material, props or costumes. Students are encouraged to try some different styles of storytelling – tandem stories or audience participation stories.
- The use of gestures should be natural and appropriate to the story. Exaggerated body movement should be avoided.
- Standing and sitting are both acceptable.
- The story should be appropriate, in terms of length and difficulty, to the grade level of the student.
- Poems are not acceptable; stories must be in prose.
- Original stories written by the student are not acceptable.
- There is a ten minute time limit but that does not mean each student must use the full ten minutes.
- Storytellers should tell a different story each year.

Once you choose your story, you are ready to begin **LEARNING YOUR STORY.**

## LEARNING YOUR STORY

When your story has been approved, you are ready to begin learning to tell your story. Here are some steps to follow.

1. Make a copy of your story.
2. Read the story aloud or silently two or three times each day for the first week. Try to see the characters and action in your mind.
3. As you learn your story, try to see the action and characters of your story in a series of pictures (like a movie) and make an outline of your story. If you make an outline, you will never get lost.

Think about:

- 1) what is happening
  - 2) what happens next
4. As you tell your story, visualize it. See it in a series of pictures. Be specific. Use your 5 senses. What do you see, hear, feel, taste, smell as your story goes on?
  5. Check your outline as often as you like and soon you will no longer need it.
  6. Tell your story again and again...to yourself and to others. The more often you tell your story the more it becomes a part of you.

**TELL IT! TELL IT! TELL IT! TELL IT! TELL IT! TELL IT!**

## TELLING YOUR STORY

1. It is suggested that each storyteller start by saying, “Hello, I am \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ (school). I have chosen to share a folk tale (or fairy tale, myth, legend, tall tale, fable) from \_\_\_\_\_ (place of origin, country or culture). The title of my story is \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. **Pause before you begin** – Give yourself a count of three and focus on your story. Then speak directly to your audience.
3. **Enunciation and pronunciation** – Speak clearly, distinctly and pronounce words correctly.
4. **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 be well-rehearsed. If you do forget your story – don't panic, don't apologize – pause, picture where you are in the story and pick it up again. Remember your outline.
6. **Pacing** – Tell your story at a comfortable pace – not too fast or too slow. Remember the audience has not heard this yet. Use pauses to provide a feeling of suspense and anticipation.
7. **Poise** – Everyone feels nervous. 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 wonderful story to share and everyone wants to hear your story. Think of the audience as your best friend.
8. **Voice** – Use your voice to help you express your story.
9. Each storyteller may end by saying, “And that was the story of \_\_\_\_\_ (title). Thank you.”

**PUT YOURSELF INTO THE TELLING!!!!**

School Library System of Genesee Valley Educational Partnership

Evaluation Form

A school may decide to use an evaluation form similar to the one below.

**Attention Student Storytellers:** You might use this to do a self-evaluation.

	<b>1 Low</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 High</b>
<b>Knowledge of Story</b>					
<b>Poise</b>					
<b>Eye Contact</b>					
<b>Pacing</b>					
<b>Enunciation and Pronunciation</b>					
<b>Volume</b>					
<b>Dynamics</b>					
<b>Level of Difficulty</b>					
<b>Overall Presentation</b>					

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Storyteller \_\_\_\_\_ Title of Story \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Judge \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
Comments:

Storyteller \_\_\_\_\_ Title of Story \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Judge \_\_\_\_\_

## BEING A GOOD SPORT

When you come to the storytelling festival, you are representing your school. How you interact with others at the storytelling festival is a reflection on your school and community.

Remember to....

- Smile.

- Say “thank you” to all who compliment you.

thank  
their help.

- As soon as you can, go to your librarian, your teacher, your parents and all others who helped you and each one. You could not have done this without

else you

- Be gracious about telling your story at home, at school, out in the community or anywhere are asked.

- Congratulate the others who took part in the festival.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bruchac, Joseph. *Tell Me a Tale*. Harcourt Brace & Company, 1997.

Hamilton, Martha, and Mitch Weiss. *Children Tell Stories : A Teaching Guide*. Richard C. Owen Publishers, 1990.

Hamilton, Martha, and Mitch Weiss. *Stories in My Pocket*. Fulcrum Publishing, 1996.

Kinghorn, Harriet R., and Mary Helen Pelton. *Every Child a Storyteller : A Handbook of Ideas*. Teachers Ideas Press, 1991.

MacDonald, Margaret Read. *The Storyteller's Start-Up Book*. August House Publishers, 1993.

Pellowski, Anne. *The Storytelling Handbook*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1995.