

Advice on running storytelling competitions in schools

Kevin Blackburn

- set a (broad!) subject
- set a duration for each tale
- give guidance on the source of the tale, traditional tales are designed to be told and are probably easiest to learn and retell.
- Give guidance on learning and telling stories, the SfS factsheet on Beginning Storytelling is ideal for this.
- consider who should judge - peers, "experts", teachers, etc.
- consider how to vote, remembering that each judge will value different things - there won't be one best story, there will be a selection of favourites
- consider who should be the audience - it would be horrid just to tell to a panel. On the other hand, telling to a large hall will intimidate many.
- consider how to filter the competitors to have a practical and enjoyable finale - you don't want the judges and the audience to have to listen to too many tales in one session.
- consider how many prizes and categories
- if not everyone is planned to take part, consider an appropriate reward for each participant (badge, e.g. "I told tales in school!" gold star, etc.) - depends on age range of school

Have a look at <http://www.tradartsteam.co.uk/> for more help and ideas