

# EDUCATION BOOKLIST

## An annotated list of books on Storytelling and Education

This booklist has been produced by the Education Sub-Committee of the Society for Storytelling, in response to requests for information on using storytelling in schools. It will be especially useful to teachers and student teachers interested in using storytelling or storytellers in their work. It should also be helpful to storytellers wishing to become more informed about working in education.

The booklist is divided into five sections:

- Classic texts on storytelling in education
- Classroom texts - practical guides for teachers
- Journal articles
- Educational Packs
- General books which give background information or deal with aspects of storytelling not directly related to the classroom

Details of availability, including ISBN numbers, are included wherever possible.

Prices are correct as of September 1999, but may be subject to change.

Readers seeking more information are referred to the lists of further reading in many of the books included here, or to the organisations whose addresses are given at the end of the document.

## **Classic texts on storytelling and education**

1) Eileen Colwell (1991 ed.) Storytelling, Thimble Press, Woodchester.  
ISBN 0 903355 353. Price: £5.25

This is an accessible guide for anyone starting out as a storyteller, written by someone with more than fifty years' experience and an international reputation. There is plenty of useful advice about choosing and telling stories, Remembering the story, improving your voice and speech, and facing an audience. There are suggestions for choosing stories for different ages, and this updated edition contains a very full and fairly current list of stories.

2) Elizabeth Cook (1976 ed.) The Ordinary and the Fabulous: an introduction to Myths, Legends and Fairy Tales for teachers and storytellers, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. Out of print, but available from libraries.

This little book carefully evaluates the place of these narratives in children's lives, giving useful notes about suitability for different ages. An interesting section compares different tellings of the same events in various authors' versions of well known European myths and legends. Elizabeth Cook has very definite views which she sets out clearly and she gives much useful advice, particularly for teachers. There is a short list of books, comprising story collections from the cultures she considers and books about stories. This further reading, though no longer up to date, is still very useful.

3) Ruth Sawyer (1942) The Way of the Storyteller, Viking, New York  
ISBN 0 14 0044361. Only published in USA, but available here from libraries.

Ruth Sawyer recounts her experiences with storytelling from her childhood to becoming one of America's leading storytellers. She explores the history of storytelling as a folk art, as well as providing practical advice on technique, selecting a story and telling. The book contains retellings of some of her favourite stories, story lists and a bibliography of background reading.

4) Marie Shedlock (1951 ed.) The Art of the Storyteller, Dover, New York  
ISBN 0 486 206351. Price £7.95

Marie Shedlock greatly influenced the development of storytelling as a regular activity in American libraries. This book, written in 1915, gives guidelines for storytelling, a selection of stories considered valuable by the writer, and a long list of further stories for telling. Although the books listed are now mostly out of print, this is a useful book not only for its historical perspective, but also for Marie Shedlock's view of stories as a child's natural introduction to literature.

## **Classroom texts on storytelling and education**

5) Grant Bage (1999) Narrative Matters: teaching and learning history through story, Falmer, London. ISBN 0 7507 0979 0 Price £15.99

Grant Bage considers the possibility of teaching the curriculum through story and develops the concept of teaching as storytelling, focusing on the history curriculum. The book combines academic analysis, and reflections on the history of teaching through story, with practical teaching ideas, which are gathered in sections at the ends of the chapters. It covers much useful ground, including a detailed and practical discussion of using oral storytelling within the Literacy Hour.

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6) Bob Barton (1986) Tell Me Another: storytelling and reading aloud at home, at school and in the community, Pembroke, Canada.

ISBN 0 912127 021. Price £12.50

Bob Barton is a teacher, broadcaster, and co-founder of the Storytellers' School of Toronto. The book is full of useful advice on story selection, making the story your own, reading and telling techniques, and many games and activities. It is aimed at the younger age range. Some of the material, especially the bibliography, is specific to North America.

7) Bob Barton and David Booth (1990) Stories in the Classroom: storytelling, reading aloud and role-playing with children, Pembroke, Canada.

ISBN 0 921217 43 9. Price £14.50

Bob Barton collaborates with fellow teacher David Booth to pool yet more practical ideas and advice on using and making stories with children. This volume will offer most to someone who has already worked quite a lot with story. There is a strong emphasis on how story can build up a sense of community in classrooms as well as on the presentational aspects of storytelling, eg. through choral work. The stories mentioned are wide-ranging in type and appeal, but, once again, some sources would be difficult to locate outside the U.S.

8) Alida Gersie and Nancy King (1990) Storymaking in Education and Therapy, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London. ISBN 1 85302 520 8. Price £18.95

The authors describe their use of stories in group work and give very specific examples of using movement, sound, image making, writing and discussion to explore the significance of each story. A useful introduction sets the context and the stories from many cultures are a welcome bonus. Although the emphasis is more towards the therapeutic than the educational, and the work described is most suitable for adults, there is much food for thought here for teachers.

9) Marnie Gillard (1996) Story teller, Story teacher: discovering the power of storytelling for teaching and living, Stenhouse, Maine.

ISBN 1 57110 014 8 Not published in Britain, available from libraries.

This book, autobiographical in tone, describes the writer's development as a storyteller and teacher and offers many perceptive insights into child-centred teaching. A whole range of ways of using story is discussed, including personal stories, 'trauma tales', reading aloud and reciting poetry. The approach of the writer and the extensive bibliography and references are American, but the content is very transferable to education and storytelling in this country.

10) Teresa Grainger (1997) Traditional Storytelling in the Primary Classroom, Scholastic, Leamington Spa.

ISBN 0 590 53686 9. Price £11.99

Although addressed to primary teachers, this book is relevant to working with all ages, in schools and community contexts. It emphasises the need for schools to develop a storytelling culture, and includes chapters on the nature of the oral tradition and ways children can learn from it, strategies for developing and planning for storytelling in the classroom, and retellings of eight powerful tales, with flexible work plans for extending such stories into children's work. The capacity of storytelling to engage mind and emotions and empower learning is made abundantly clear.

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11) Claire Jennings (1993) Children as Storytellers: developing language skills in the classroom, Oxford University Press, Australia  
ISBN 0 19 553286 4. Price £12.00

Claire Jennings is an Australian primary teacher, and her book is based on her tried and tested methods. It is full of practical ways to involve children in storytelling and ideas for classroom activities. Many of the activities are equally applicable to older students.

12) John Morgan and Mario Rinvolutri (1983) Once Upon A Time: using stories in the language classroom, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.  
ISBN 0 521 27262 9. Price £10.95

A practical resource book primarily written for teachers of English as a Foreign or Second Language, this slim volume encourages storytelling as an aid to listening, comprehension, grammar practice, fluency and oral production. The exercises and activities suggested (and there are many of them) would also be suitable for National Curriculum based work at all levels. There is a large 'story pool' of 'skeleton' tales both traditional and contemporary.

13) Vivian Gussin Paley (1981) Wally's Stories: conversations in the kindergarten, Harvard University Press, USA.  
ISBN 0 674 50585 9. Price £8.50

This is a lively account of young children working out their ideas about life through talk and stories with their gifted and empowering teacher. Telling and acting out stories is a central activity in Vivian Gussin Paley's classroom, and she has years of experience to uphold her belief in the importance of letting the child's voice be heard. The children work through many of their problems by using storytelling, and the lengthy transcriptions make enjoyable reading.

14) Vivian Gussin Paley (1990) The Boy Who Would Be A Helicopter: storytelling in the classroom, Harvard University Press, USA.  
ISBN 0 674 08031 9. Price £6.95

This is another inspiring and moving account of the author's work with under fives. She chronicles a year in the life of her kindergarten class, showing how her approach, which puts the children's stories at the heart of the curriculum, enables an isolated, unhappy child to find his place in the community of her classroom. Her teaching method involves taping the crucial interactions of each day, and transcribing and reflecting on them in order to inform her teaching.

Though this painstaking system is probably impractical for most teachers in these beleaguered times, it demonstrates most powerfully the importance of listening to what the children are telling us through their stories, conversations and play.

15) Betty Rosen (1988) And None of it was Nonsense: the power of storytelling in school, Scholastic, Canada.  
ISBN 1 85234 2072. Price £10.95

Now out of print in this country but available from libraries,  
or direct from the author at: 56 Muswell Hill, London, N10 2BE

Betty Rosen describes her storytelling work as a teacher in an inter-city secondary school with passion and pride in the achievements of the pupils. She includes the pupils' own retellings and gives much practical information about the way she worked.

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16) Betty Rosen (1990) Shapers and Polishers: teachers as storytellers'

Collins Educational, London

ISBN 00 314366 X. Price £10.00

Out of print, but available from libraries, or direct from the author at:

56 Muswell Hill, London, N10 2BE

Betty Rosen's second book focuses on teachers, rather than pupils, as storytellers. Again there are many practical examples to give the beginner heart, and a selection of tried and tested stories is included. This is a very useful and encouraging book for a teacher wanting to use more storytelling.

17) Gordon Wells (1987) The Meaning Makers: children learning language and using language to learn, Hodder and Stoughton, London.

ISBN 0 340 40798 0. Price £14.99

This book deals with children's whole development as language users. It centres on a ten year study of a group of children in Bristol and gives much valuable information about the things that help and hinder them in their language development. A section of chapter eight, 'What's in a story', and chapter ten, 'The sense of a story', are the most relevant parts to this booklist.

18) Andrew Wright (1995) Storytelling With Children, Oxford English Resource Books for Teachers, Oxford

ISBN 0194 37 2022. Price £11.15

This book is aimed specifically at teachers of English as a Second Language but, as with all good E2L teaching, there is a great deal here for any would-be or actual storytelling teacher. There is a valuable reminder that any language focus should never be allowed to stifle the magic of the story, followed by a veritable treasure chest of ideas for activities and practical tips for coping. Many stories, both familiar and less known, are included, linked in many cases to detailed lesson plans.

19) Andrew Wright (1997) Creating Stories with Children, Oxford University Press, Oxford

ISBN 019 437 204 9. Price £11.15

This resource book is aimed at teachers of children aged 4 to 14, and is appropriate for those learning English as an additional language. The ideas could easily be adapted for other age groups. It is clearly set out, with many inspiring ideas and step-by-step guides for exercises and activities, a section on 'How to use this book', and an extensive bibliography.

20) Jack Zipes (1995) Creative Storytelling: building community, changing lives, Routledge, London.

ISBN 0 415 91272 5. Price £ 12.99

Jack Zipes is well respected in the academic world of story theory. This is his first book for classroom teachers. He describes many of the games, stories and activities he uses. His approach draws on drama in education, and while there are no surprises here for the experienced teacher-storyteller, the ideas are practical, and his reputation as a theoretician ensures that the book will be widely read and influential.

## **Journal articles**

21) Language Matters, published by the Centre for Language in Primary Education (address on page 9), regularly addresses the topic of storytelling in school. The following issues and articles are of particular relevance and are available by post from CLPE.

22) Don't know if you know my story: an account of oral storytelling in the classroom, by June Peters, in Early Years - Language Matters 193/4 No.1.  
Price £4.00

June Peters describes her work with stories as a supply teacher in two inner-city classrooms, showing how she puts storytelling at the centre of her teaching. Examples of the children's own stories and retellings are thoughtfully analysed.

23) Storytelling as a Creative Art, by Fiona Collins, in: Language and the Arts - Language Matters 1995/6 no.2. Price £4.00

Fiona Collins looks at the past and present nature of oral storytelling, and then goes on to give examples from her own experience as a storyteller in school, which focus on fostering creativity, memory and skills of visualisation through using storytelling.

24) Bringing history alive, by Fiona Collins, in: Drama and Play – Language Matters Spring 1999. Price £4.50 (inc. p&p).

This is an account of practical work using drama and storytelling with two different primary classes. It describes practical sessions, in a school and at St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, which aimed to help children understand the history of their own area and to develop empathy with people of the past.

## **Educational Packs**

25) Fun with Words (1999) Published by BBC Wales

Price £3.00 (Teachers' notes), £2.50 (Cassettes), plus £2.20 p&p per order.

Available from BBC Wales Education Publications, Broadcasting House, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 2YQ

This pack accompanies a radio series on literacy strategy for Key Stage 2, and consists of cassettes of the programmes plus a book of Teacher's Notes. Programme 1, by storyteller Mary Medicott, is devoted to *Storytelling*, and contains a personal story, a historical story and a folk tale. The other programmes, presented by Ruth Lee, John Lovat and Francesca Kay, deal with *Storywriting*, *Drama* and *Poetry*. The materials have a strong Welsh dimension.

26) Speak out, listen up!, (1997) Edited by Mike Dunstan, published by East Devon District Council. Price £10.00 including p&p

Available from Bridget Crump, Amenities Department, East Devon District Council, Knowle, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 8HL

This resource pack grew out of a storytelling residency in Devon Schools undertaken by a group of experienced storytellers. They have each contributed a story, accompanied by autobiographical notes, story texts, ideas, 'story skeletons', and story maps for use in the classroom. There are articles on developing storytelling in the curriculum. This useful material is all photocopyable.

## **General books about storytelling**

27) Carol Fox (1993) At The Very Edge of the Forest: the influence of literature on storytelling by children, Cassell, London.

ISBN 0 304 32695 X. Only available in hardback (Price £50.00) or from libraries.

Carol Fox has made a study of stories told onto tape by five pre-school children. In this book she shows how rich and complex these stories are, and how much knowledge about vocabulary, story structure and general knowledge these children have acquired from the stories told and read to them, information which they are able to shape and use for themselves. This is a scholarly and academic book drawing on the writer's research at doctoral level. It offers real evidence for the importance of storytelling in young children's development as language users.

28) Anne Pellowski (1990 ed.) The World of Storytelling, H.W.Wilson, USA.

ISBN 0 8352 1024 3. Out of print in Britain, available from libraries.

A comprehensive and wide-ranging survey of storytelling at different times and places throughout the world. Well illustrated and accessible, this book provides a mass of interesting information about different ways of using storytelling. Useful for a sense of the history and geography of storytelling, and also for gathering ideas from different cultures.

29) Harold Rosen (1985) Stories and Meanings, NATE Publications, Sheffield.

Available from NATE, address at end.

This small pamphlet contains two articles and an autobiographical story which explore theories about narrative and emphasise the author's belief that it is a central way for humans to make sense of their experiences.

30) Harold Rosen (1993) Troublesome Boy, English and Media Centre, London.

Distributed by NATE Publications, Sheffield. ISBN 0 907016 04 9. Price £6.95

A short and happy collection which exemplifies and extends the thinking in Stories and Meanings. It contains autobiographical short stories about growing up in the East End of London in the nineteen twenties, retellings of two folktales and three papers which argue strongly for the special importance of the anecdote and the story of personal experience. The stories could all be greatly enjoyed by secondary school pupils.

31) Harold Rosen (1998) Speaking from Memory: the study of autobiographical discourse, Trentham Books, Stoke on Trent.

ISBN 1 85856 082 9.

Harold Rosen maps out the 'landscape' of both written and oral autobiography and presents a critical overview of current thinking on autobiography. An academic text which will be of particular interest to storytellers working in this area who want to develop their understanding of how autobiographical memory works.

32) Nancy Schimmel (1982) Just Enough to Make a Story: a source book for storytelling, Sisters' Choice Press, Berkeley, USA.

ISBN 0 932164 021. Not published in Britain, available from libraries.

An introductory book for parents, teachers, librarians and others who enjoy reading stories and want to tell stories. A plethora of ideas, outlines of how to use paper folding, finger puppets, picture books, children as acting participants, rhymes, songs and more. Several photocopyable, annotated bibliographies, eg., stories with active heroines, children's folklore, stories with adults.

33) Mary Steele (ed.) (1989) Traditional Tales, Thimble Press, Woodchester.

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ISBN 0 903355 29 9. Price £3.25

This is one of a series of annotated 'book guides' on different subjects brought out by Thimble Press. It contains a very full range of storybooks and anthologies of traditional tales on which a teacher can draw for ideas, giving a flavour of the books and indicating their relevance to different ages. Mary Steele has included a mass of useful background information about her choice of texts and lists some helpful background information about her choice of texts, also lists some helpful background reading for the teacher or storyteller.

34) J.R.R. Tolkien (1992 ed.) Tree and Leaf, Unwin, London

ISBN 0 04 440253 8. Out of print, but available from libraries.

This little book contains Tolkien's important article, 'On Fairy Stories', as well as a story and a poem. In this piece, originally composed for a lecture in honour of Andrew Lang, he first used the term 'secondary world' to describe the storytellers creation, which draws in the listener or reader. There is much of interest here to shed light upon the fascination of human beings with stories.

35) Liz Weir (ed.) (1989) Telling the Tale: a storytelling guide, The Library Association, Youth Libraries Group Pamphlet no. 29.

ISBN 0 946581 08 8. Price £5.00

This is a collection of six articles, each written by a different storyteller. It gives a range of ideas and suggestions for strategies and follow-up activities to involve the audience in the stories. Although intended primarily for librarians, it will also prove useful to teachers.

For further information the following organisations may be helpful.

- The Society for Storytelling,  
St Margarets House, 12 Belle Ave. READING, RG6 7BL  
Tel: 0118 935 1381  
[www.sfs.org.uk](http://www.sfs.org.uk)

The SfS produces a range of publications, including:

Story Clubs in Schools by Jane Hislam, in the *Artisan* series

Different - But Oh How Like! by Kevin Crossley-Holland, in the *Oracle* series

The New Storytelling by Simon Heywood, in the *Papyrus* series

- The Folklore Society,  
University College London, Gower Street, London. WC1E 6BT.  
Tel: 0171 387 5894
- The National Association of Teachers of English (NATE),  
50 Broadfield Road, Broadfield Business Centre, Sheffield, S8 0X.  
Tel: 0114 255 5419
- The Centre for Language in Primary Education (CLPE),  
Webber Row, London, SE1 8QW (Anne Lazim, Librarian)  
Tel: 0207 633 0840 email: [ann@clpe.co.uk](mailto:ann@clpe.co.uk)