

HEATHER FOREST

Storytelling Workshops

Heather Forest, Ph.D has presented highly acclaimed professional development and arts-based workshops throughout the United States and abroad. She served as an adjunct professor of Oral Tradition for ten years at Southern Connecticut State University where she taught graduate level courses in Folktale, Mythology and Storytelling Art and Technique. She is currently the director of the Story Arts Institute which offers communication skills workshops for practitioners in diverse fields that utilize storytelling methods and require narrative competency: Teachers, lawyers, librarians, oral historians, nature interpreters, ethics educators and more.



STORYTELLING SKILLS WORKSHOP:

The Magic of Words

This interactive storytelling workshop offers insights into the inner workings of the art of storytelling. Participants will explore the basic tools of storytelling: voice, body, imagination and metaphor. Through demonstration, discussion, and playful improvisation, participants will explore a range of storytelling methods, story composition, character expressiveness, and inventive ways to liberate spontaneous, evocative, descriptive speech. We will examine practical methods to sequence, remember, and engagingly share a story. Participants will consider ways to effectively rehearse, self-assess, and improve their telling over time. Bringing literature to life, oral storytelling skills will also be applied to reading-out loud.

"An excellent session with lots of practical ideas . . . She instills a great inspiration for one to try...I liked the way she modeled techniques and had us practice them"

*-Workshop Participant
University of Rochester, NY*

STORYTELLING IN THE CLASSROOM: *Listening & Literacy*

Celebrating multi-cultural folktales, this workshop offers an overview of the diverse uses of storytelling in the classroom to encourage listening skills, oral language expression, reading, and creative writing. Through practical storytelling activities, this workshop examines ways that the oral tradition of storytelling can enhance language arts and social studies curriculum.

"What a great staff development workshop you presented! . . . as a result of this workshop, our teachers have improved their language arts instruction. The techniques were put to use immediately and have invigorated the delivery of the curriculum . . . you were able to integrate the pedagogical and historical background of the ancient art of storytelling with the practical methods teachers will use every day."

-Early Childhood Director, Port Washington Schools, NY

LEADING with STORIES

This workshop explores storytelling as a core competency for artfully leading change. Through arts-based activities participants examine the power of metaphor to concisely and concretely convey a message, consider how carefully chosen words and evocative stories can impact meaning, and learn how to utilize storytelling to stimulate inventive thinking, clarify values, and motivate action.

"After five years of quarterly meetings and a range of national and state speakers, I have never seen the group of 50 child and family experts so captivated . . ."
-Executive Director, Early Years Institute, LI, NY

NARRATING THE NATURAL WORLD: A Storytelling Skills Workshop for Nature Interpreters

Stories about the natural world can captivate listeners, inspire observation, wonder, curiosity, and can spark desire to preserve and protect the environment! This professional development workshop for naturalists aims to enhance participants' narrative competency in conveying information about the natural world. Through demonstration, discussion and playful verbal/physical activities, participants will hone basic storytelling skills and will learn how to successfully develop and share tales that celebrate and illuminate the natural world.

*"Everything was useful. I soaked it all up like a plant does sun . . . Thanks so, so, so much for possibly one of the best workshops I have ever attended!
. . . I would go as far as saying this course should be mandatory!"*
-Naturalist Nassau BOCES

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