

Title of Session: The Art of Storytelling
Moderator: BJ Berquist
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Room: The Art of Storytelling Group

BJB2: Hi, Brittany. Welcome!

CaroleM joined the room.

BrittanyJ: hi thanks

CaroleM: Hello, am I in at the right time today?

BrittanyJ: yes

BJB2: you are, Carole!

CaroleM: yippee - I've been looking forward to this chat, I'm very interested in the art of storytelling

BJB2: we'll wait a minute or two to see if anyone else is going to join us

BJB2: and then we'll get started

BJB2: we usually start with introductions, so you can tell everyone where you are located and what you teach or do

BrittanyJ: I'll start if that's ok

BJB2: that's fine, Brittany...just one suggestion before you do

BJB2: to make your chat window easier to read...

BJB2: go to the ACTIONS menu in the top right of the chat screen and click on larger text or detach

BJB2: we will want to look at items on the welcome screen, so don't lose where it is, please

BJB2: OK, Brittany...go for it!

BrittanyJ: ok well I live in Woodstock Virginia and I am unable to work due to CFS and fibromyalgia

BJB2: what interest do you have in storytelling, Brittany?

BrittanyJ: I just like listening to stories and reading

CaroleM: I live in Baranduda, Victoria, Australia and its going to be another hot day today...

CaroleM: I facilitate the Digital Storytelling Network in Australia online

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I help teachers learn more about educational technology. I'm a HelpDesk volunteer for Tapped In. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

BJB2 . o O (that sounds like the beginning of a great story, Carole!)

BJB2: Connie?

ConnieTo: I live in Louisiana - and I teach kindergarten. Can't wait to learn what you guys have to say!

ConnieTo: My little guys LOVE storytelling and any new twist is great.

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and had the wonderful opportunity of participating in the National Gallery of Art digital storytelling workshop last summer

BrittanyJ: I've been there

CaroleM: thanks BJB, maybe I should start a story today with that line ... and it's going to be another hot day today.

BJB2: cool, Brittany

ConnieTo: smile

BJB2 smiles. And we each should add to the story like a round robin

BJB2: since you all are new to this group...I think Carole has joined. Has anyone else joined the group?

CaroleM: great idea, I love round robins - I did that years ago with my online writing group

BJB2: if you are not a member of this group, I recommend you join so you can get email reminders of when the group is meeting

BJB2: to join the group look at your welcome screen

BJB2: scroll down on the welcome message to THIS IS THE GROUP ROOM FOR THE ART OF STORYTELLING

BJB2: and click on the green i

BJB2: that will show you the group ID page

BJB2: at the top of the screen is a place to JOIN THIS GROUP

BJB2: joining a group subscribes you to the discussion board

BJB2: and allows you to post messages and add resources

BJB2: the group has not met for a long time so this is kind of an organizational meeting

BJB2: there are a lot of resources already posted to help you

BJB2: does anyone have any special resources that they want to share? Or tell us how they use storytelling in the classroom?

CaroleM: okay I'll do that

CaroleM: that was meant for the join this group action, but that can wait, can I start with some news about DST?

BJB2 listens to Carole

CaroleM: I just love the easy programs available now for creating digital stories from photos and recorded voice ...

BJB2: such as?

CaroleM: e.g Photo Story 3 and Movie Maker 2 for PCs

CaroleM: iMovie for Macs

BJB2: Connie, are you familiar with that software?

BJB2: PhotoStory is free, as is iMovie

ConnieTo: No, It's all new to me - I'm learning.

BJB2 nods. What about the voice recording, Carole?

CaroleM: I have delivered some short workshops for DST using those plus Audacity for voice recording.

BJB2: Audacity is also free

ConnieTo: Are these available on the web?

BJB2: yes, Connie

ConnieTo: nods

CaroleM: Yes, that's why we use all of the above -- go to Microsoft.com for the dst programs and soundforge.com for Audacity

ConnieTo: thanks

BJB2: what do you feel the most important element of a digital story is, Carole?

CaroleM: the focus of the story - the emotional content for a personal story, - the learning for an instructional one

BJB2: do you start with the words or the images?

CaroleM: some of my workshops focus on the 'purpose' of the dst and therefore will begin with the 'story', others grow from a series of images e.g. those sepia and b&w photos in boxes under the bed

BJB2 smiles. That was the hardest thing for me to figure out when I did my first story

ConnieTo: Like traditional story telling?

CaroleM: for some workshops I usually suggest that they bring along their story script to read to group first - like a story circle

ConnieTo: I understand

BJB2: digital stories are usually a lot more personal than traditional storytelling...and much more emotion packed

ConnieTo: why?

DavidWe . o O (multi-media?)

ConnieTo: more impact.

CaroleM: yes absolutely and the power of the digital story is immersing the viewer into that emotion using imagery, voice and soundtrack - just like the movies

BJB2 nods to Carole...Joe Lambert from The Center for Digital Storytelling also suggests the script first...and it should only be one page long

CaroleM: yes Joe Lambert was my first mentor and I learned dst the traditional way...

BJB2: traditional storytelling usually has more focus on values and history

BJB2: digital storytelling draws from personal experience

CaroleM: I attended the first dst conference in Wales - my birth place - and built my first personal dst about searching for my birth place (I had not been back to Cardiff since I was an infant)

BJB2: Connie, I'd suggest you browse the resources in the folder on the welcome screen

ConnieTo: I will! This sounds like a terrific source for my students and colleagues to explore.

CaroleM: that experience was captured in digital images and mixed with photos from my albums - it is a part of my eportfolio now and I sometimes use it to demonstrate the power of personal story

BJB2: I get a newsletter from a traditional storyteller also...and can't for the life of me think of her name....I'm looking [Ed. Note: The Story Connection - Dianne de Las Casas <http://www.storyconnection.net/>]

BJB2: the "voice" is something that is important in any kind of storytelling

CaroleM: here in Australia we have a few traditional storytellers who tell about the history of their indigenous groups - their voice is important in this regard as they maintain the oral storytelling tradition

DavidWe . o O ("Where the Green Ants Dream")

CaroleM: David, that sounds familiar, should I know it?

CaroleM: Is it part of the dreamtime stories?

DavidWe: Werner Herzog film (1984) involves Australian Aborigines

DavidWe: Fascinating

CaroleM: aha

CaroleM: a good friend of mine (who died recently) was our local Artist in Residence and he told many dreamtime stories and the one I like best is the one about 'dragonflies' and how they emerged from the mud...

CaroleM: changed their shape and crawled on the land... changed again and grew wings to fly ...it was Eddie's story of the development of the land and he painted a mammoth picture to illustrate it

BJB2: as he told the story?

CaroleM: not quite, the painting took months to accomplish, then when it was unveiled he told us that story.

BJB2: cool!

CaroleM: this painting has pride of place in the entrance to our LIRNspace at Wodonga TAFE - my adult learning environment where I work part time

ConnieTo: We have students that have been affected by Katrina and Rita (the second one did a number on us locally) it sounds like this medium can help our students express and understand.

BJB2: oh, my, yes, Connie!

BJB2: I wonder if your students would like an authentic audience?

CaroleM: Yes, storytelling of this kind is therapeutic

BJB2: are you aware of the K-12 Student Campus in Tapped In?

ConnieTo: I really think they would.

ConnieTo: Yes, I have participated there.

BJB2: that would be the perfect place to have your class discuss their stories with another class...a collaboration

ConnieTo: yes, I have someone in mind that might be interested in this - across the district...

BJB2 agrees that storytelling can be very therapeutic

BJB2: are you familiar with The Empty Box Project?

ConnieTo: Yes, and also helps to build on necessary skills for development.

ConnieTo: No - not familiar

CaroleM: no, do tell us about it

BJB2 looks for the URL

BJB2 is very organized and has files and files and files...just can't find anything in the files

ConnieTo: Oh, boy, --- can I relate!!!! (LOL)

BJB2: the basis for the project is that people write or draw on cubes/boxes

ConnieTo: Real or virtual

BJB2: and tell their story this way...then the person who leads the project makes a public display of the boxes

BJB2 . o O (real)

ConnieTo: Ah

ConnieTo: BRB

BJB2: <http://www.urbanesque.com/empty/>

CaroleM: that sounds intriguing I'll need to visit that URL, BRB

BJB2: Adrienne has been a guest in Tapped In for some other groups and I'm sure she would be delighted to join us some time

BJB2: so we can have digital stories...

BJB2: we can have traditional stories...

BJB2: hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard when you click, Carole

BJB2: what are some other ways we can construct stories?

BJB2: Carole, are you familiar with The Silence Speaks?

BJB2: <http://www.silencespeaks.org/>

CaroleM: stories can also be constructed with just imagery.

BJB2 . o O (they are now a part of the Storytelling Center)

BJB2: what about puppet shows?

DavidWe: interesting, Bj

CaroleM: I have not heard of The Silence Speaks but recently one of my workshop students prepared a story about 'are you response ready' using images and videos of disasters in 2005

ConnieTo: That's my territory

JanKS joined the room.

BJB2: or shadows or readers theater

ConnieTo: Puppets can be made using all sorts of mediums - the students express themselves and get to know each others through the puppets they create.

BJB2: all those would be your territory, Connie

ConnieTo: RIGHT

BJB2: yes!

ConnieTo: smile

BJB2: hi, Jan

JanKS: Hello...I am late, but wanted to see what you were doing the last few minutes.

CaroleM: do puppets appeal to a certain age group Connie?

ConnieTo: We did wonderful works today using mirrors and basic patterns - the children did GREAT work

BJB2: I also have had a guest from The Silence Speaks as a speaker for one of the Tapped In discussions....Amy Hill. I'll see if she also would have time to join us some month

BJB2: I think that puppets can be for any age

ConnieTo: the work is on display - it is the most wonderful rainbow of

ConnieTo: "people" you ever want to see. They did it as part of cultural awareness for Martin Luther King day

BJB2: Jan, we're glad you could join us. Have you had experience with storytelling?

JanKS: not really

ConnieTo: We are also working on art as an expression of our Louisiana heritage. Remarkable how they can identify the most profound ideas in the simplest of pictures.

BJB2 smiles...they obviously have a wonderful teacher, Connie

CaroleM: BJB Could I invite you and members of this group to participate in a web conference sometime this year, using Elluminate Live.... We would love to have some special events for the Digital Storytelling Network.

BJB2: sounds like fun, Carole

JanKS: I do have a lesson where the students create a story quilt using the influence of Faith Ringgold.

CaroleM: excellent BJB

BJB2: cool, Jan.

CaroleM: Jan can you tell us more about the story quilt please

BJB2 . o O (there's another kind of storytelling for you, Connie)

ConnieTo: listening happily

CaroleM: quilting was something I did some years back and it was during the quilting bees where many a story was told

JanKS: Well...I have not done it with my students yet, but the ones I have seen done use a collage method to create a favorite place in the center and then create the quilt with squares of color on the outside. Then the students hand write on the outer edge the story of their favorite place.

ConnieTo: Ooooo

BJB2: Faith Ringgold does some wonderful art and stories, Connie.

CaroleM: that sounds wonderful Jan, the finished quilt would then be a permanent record of their location and their life at the time

ConnieTo: I am not familiar with him/her

BJB2 . o O (her)

BJB2: Ladies, I hate to end this discussion...but it's exciting that we've had so much to share...

JanKS: I book that goes with that lesson is Tar Beach (An African American story)

BJB2 nods to Jan

ConnieTo: That was the shortest hour I have EVER spent on the computer!!!

BJB2: The WriteTalk session is starting in the WriteTalk group room...might be a place to address the writing of our stories

CaroleM: in Australia we have a project called My Place where people can send in their stories about their favourite place - I think a digital image of a quilt would be a perfect accompaniment

BJB2 laughs...all the sessions are like that in Tapped In, Connie

ConnieTo: Will this be available on transcript? I want to keep the notes.

BJB2: perhaps we should use the topic of quilts as stories for our next session?

CaroleM: now that's a great idea BJB

ConnieTo: Yes

ConnieTo: When do we meet again?

BJB2: sounds good to me...I'm not sure what date will be available, but I'll be sure to post to the discussion list...so make sure you join the group

CaroleM: Okay, yes the clock on the play room wall is telling me I must move on to other work. Thanks for a very stimulating hour.

BJB2: is this time ok?

ConnieTo: Yes

CaroleM: okay off to explore the URLs, join the group, and make lunch Bye from sunny Australia.

BJB2: Thanks, Connie, Carole and Jan.

BJB2 waves goodnight and heads for the writetalk room

JanKS: Thanks !

ConnieTo: Good night, Y'all