

**Title of Session:** The Art of Storytelling

**Moderator:** BJ Berquist

**Title of File:** 20060712storytelling

**Date:** July 12, 2006

Room: The Art of Storytelling Group

**BjB:** we usually start all the Tapped In discussions with introductions

**BjB:** please tell us where you are located, what you teach, and what interest you have in the topic of storytelling

**GlynnB** joined the room.

**HeatherBu:** I'm a Technology teacher in a rural Texas middle school

**SusanAH:** Inwood WV, not a teacher, only a student, I love hearing a good story and would love to know more about telling. Most of my essays are storytelling with words.

**BjB:** I'm an art teacher In Pennsylvania and am very interested in the topic of story

**BjB:** cool, Susan

**SusanAH**

**SusanAH:** words on paper I should have said.

**JeffC:** Jeff Cooper, in Oregon and on Helpdesk here.

**BjB** . o O ( we understood what you meant )

**PennyH:** I am in Virginia and I teach in Alexandria, Virginia which is about 10 minutes from D.C. I teach fourth grade. I have been interested in digital storytelling and this is my first discussion with Tapped In for my Education Leadership class.

**GlynnB:** I am a retired teacher of English/Computers and interested in creative writing

**SusanR:** hi everyone k to 3 occasional teacher from Ontario, Canada

**JoshG:** I am a student in Texas and I love reading a good story and love it more when I hear someone else read it

**KathrynHu:** I teach 7th grade English in an urban school and am on the lookout for new strategies

**GlynnB:** Kathryn, May I call you Katy

**BJB:** thank you, everyone.

**BJB:** The topic I'd like to share tonight is Story Connection

**KathrynHu:** lol, sure Dad

**BJB:** StoryConnection was created by Dianne de Las Casas

**BJB:** anyone familiar with her resources?

**FredK** joined the room.

**BJB:** Hi, Fred...quick intro, please?

**FredK:** tutor for push literacy council

**FredK:** ty

**BJB** chuckles...that was quick!

**SusanAH:** He must have been expecting the question. haha

**BJB:** I just asked the group if anyone was familiar with Story Connection with Dianne de Las Casas

**SusanAH:** no

**PennyH:** no

**GlynnB:** no

**JoshG:** no

**FredK:** no

**KathrynHu:** no

**BJB:** let's take a look at her website first [www.storyconnection.net](http://www.storyconnection.net)

**SusanAH:** I'm there

**JoshG:** me to

**HeatherBu:** Anything in particular you'd like us to look at, BJ?

**PennyH:** I'm on my way

**BjB:** I'd like you to subscribe to her newsletter

**HeatherBu:** found it (down at the bottom of the page)

**FredK:** done

**BjB:** the current newsletter has links to "sizzling summer reading"

**PennyH:** Appears to be impressive

**BjB:** thanks, Heather

**GlynnB:** I've confirmed my subscription

**BjB:** one of the sites she shares is <http://www.GuysRead.com>

**JeffC:** I joined... but I didn't get parental permission first.

**BjB:** created by John Scieska of stinky cheese man fame

**BjB:** . o O ( and the true story of the three little pigs )

**KathrynHu:** and the Time Warp Trio

**BjB:** Jeff, she has two newsletters. One is for kids

**BjB:** . o O ( probably the one you have to get permission for )

**HeatherBu:** . o O ( leave it to Jeff )

**JeffC:** hehe

**BjB:** Beyond Books

**BjB:** Look beyond traditional avenues to get your kids to read. Encourage them to read

**BjB:** kids' meal boxes and bags, restaurant kids' menus, cereal boxes, billboard signs,

**BjB:** and drink caps (such as Snapple). Play literacy and reading games in the car. There

**BjB:** are several listed on my website, <http://www.storyconnection.net>. Click on Parent

**BjB:** Connection. Sign your kids up for my Passport Kids Club, a quarterly newsletter,

**BjB:** which highlights a country, its customs, its animals, and a story. It's educational,

**BjB:** but still a lot of fun!

**BjB:** . o O ( from the newsletter )

**BjB:** The next thing I wanted to point out is something you will like, Jeff

**BjB:** Dianne has set up a page at My Space

**HeatherBu:** lol

**HeatherBu:** Jeff, a new friend for you

**KathrynHu:** v cool

**BjB:** <http://www.myspace.com/storyconnection>

**BjB:** the reason that this drew my attention was that in the newsletter...

**BjB:** she shares a story where a child who had attended one of her storytelling workshops...

**BjB:** told her how much she enjoyed the experience

**BjB:** Dianne said that she gets lots of feedback from teachers and adults, but rarely has the opportunity to get feedback from the kids

**DavidJQ** joined the room.

**BjB:** hi, David. Welcome

**DavidJQ:** thank you

**BjB:** we're discussing Dianne de las Casas' site [www.storyconnection.net](http://www.storyconnection.net)

**BjB:** and her My Space page at <http://www.myspace.com/storyconnection>

**DavidJQ:** ok

**GlynnB:** What age group are Dianne's stories appropriate?

**BjB:** we sometimes get so wrapped up in stories and tech, that we lose sight of the face to face stories and their importance

**BjB:** I think you can adapt any story to any age, Glynn

**GlynnB:** thanks

**BjB:** everyone likes a good story

**GlynnB:** I still remember the tall tales my grandfather told me.

**BjB** smiles. There are quite a few links on Dianne's page to storytelling and resources

**BjB:** does anyone use the power of story in their classrooms?

**HeatherBu:** I've tried, from time to time.

**BjB:** or have a favorite site they want to share, a special storyteller?

**BjB:** Dianne also has a page for parents and kids

**BjB:** <http://www.storyconnection.net/?content=links#websites>

**BjB:** which is a page of storytellers

**FredK:** The latest issue of AARP, with Colin Powell on the front has an article about story tellers. It is titled, "Do Tell. The secret to being a great storyteller is to become a great listener.

**BjB:** great, Fred. Thanks. I also have come across a site where the power of story is being used to help Alzheimer patients

**BjB:** [http://www.cmf.org/tools/tools\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=305138](http://www.cmf.org/tools/tools_show.htm?doc_id=305138)

**PennyH:** Thanks

**BjB:** this demonstrates the agelessness of storytelling

**BjB** . o O ( or multigenerational qualities )

**HeatherBu:** very much so, BJ

**BjB:** any questions or comments?

**BjB** . o O ( have I put everyone asleep? )

**HeatherBu** smiles

**PennyH:** Just reading the link. It reminds you of the movie The Notebook

**HeatherBu:** I'm busy adding stuff to delicious!

**GlynnB:** It's all been very fascinating

**FredK:** The health literacy is an area our council is attempting to get into. Thanks BJ

**BjB:** story is such an integral part of our lives...and a wonderful tool to make learning and teaching relevant to our students

**SusanR:** yes, does bring to mind the Notebook

**BjB:** I'm not familiar with the Notebook

**BjB:** <http://www.thenotebookmovie.com/>

**HeatherBu:** At Amazon: <http://snipurl.com/t5dc>

**PennyH:** Bingo, it's addictive, but totally relates to the information about storytelling to nursing home patients.

**SusanR:** very touching film..remains with you

**FredK:** Reminds me of the movie about the "Last Leaf"

**HeatherBu** nods to Fred

**HeatherBu:** I like this link from Dianne's site: <http://www.ultimate-storytelling-guide.com/storytellinglessons.html>

**FredK:** Looks like a lot of good links from there too

**HeatherBu:** BJ, how do you use storytelling in your classroom?

**BjB:** I like to use picture books a lot...

**SusanR:** Robert Munsch started his career with storytelling..and still works out his ideas for picture books that way

**BjB:** to help students build connections between images and words

**BjB:** and words and images

**PennyH:** I agree telling stories is an integral part of our lives. I use it so much in class just to let my students know that I am human. They understand me more too. Making connections!!

**KathrynHu:** aah

**SusanR:** <http://www.robertmunsch.com/storytime.cfm>

**BjB:** I find that we take a lot of that for granted. Many of my kids have not had the experience of someone reading them a story

**BjB:** the topic of listening skills that was brought up earlier is another skill that I try to work on

**HeatherBu** nods

**JeffC** doesn't think anyone heard you Bj.

**JeffC** . o O ( except for Heather )

**KathrynHu:** heh

**BjB** grins

**HeatherBu** likes to listen to BJ

**GlynnB:** We men have to learn a lot about listening skills

**HeatherBu** smiles gently at her hubby

**FredK** . o O ( I'm all ears )

**SusanR:** Kids find it difficult to listen for any length of time

**JeffC:** Because we were raised to tune out.

**GlynnB:** and not try to fix anything

**BjB:** isn't just a gender thing, Glynn

**PennyH:** Wow excellent resource

**GlynnB:** Depends which gender you are.

**KathrynHu:** Since my students have a separate Reading teacher, I end up reading stories to my kids that I want them to respond to in writing.

**GlynnB:** I'm still learning from Heather

**BjB:** cool, Kathryn

**KathrynHu:** ty

**BjB:** I've subscribed to SimplyAudio books on CDs...

**BjB:** it's been a very interesting experience LEARNING to LISTEN to stories without seeing the words in print

**BjB:** <http://www.simplyaudiobooks.com/>

**HeatherBu:** I used that at the end of this last semester...

**KathrynHu:** how?

**BjB:** many libraries have books on tape or CD

**HeatherBu:** while the kids were working on their various Tech projects,

**HeatherBu:** we had Harry Potter playing in the background

**JoshG:** when I was in 3rd grade I didn't like reading but I got an audio book on the first Harry Potter book and have been reading every since

**HeatherBu:** They would remind me, each day, to get it started.

**PennyH:** Books on tape are excellent for differentiation

**HeatherBu:** Today's kids are so much better than I am at multi-tasking.

**KathrynHu:** How so, please?

**HeatherBu:** Great, Josh

**BjB:** cool, Heather. Kids have a real problem VISUALIZING a story

**KathrynHu:** I agree

**BjB** listens to Josh

**SusanR:** Students can make their own connections

**PennyH:** That's difficulty with making connections b/c of lack of knowledge- perhaps?

**BjB** agrees with Penny...prior knowledge is very limited for many



**PennyH:** definitely Susan

**HeatherBu:** Penny, can you talk more about the differentiation?

**JoshG:** the story teller in the Harry Potter book was so good about using different tones and characters it made me think and before then I didn't do that

**PennyH:** But not all children have the resources to make the connections to some things that are taught

**BjB** smiles. Excellent, Josh! Thanks

**PennyH:** Sure, we all know that we all learn differently- some of us are auditory, visual, tactile, kinesthetic learners. Some vary from one are to the other. I learn by listening and doing (auditory and tactile)

**JoshG:** I learn by visualizing it and that's why I love reading

**JoshG:** and listening

**JoshG:** to great stories

**KathrynHu:** Me, too - the words go from my eyes to my "inner" ear

**PennyH:** For example, I tell history stories to my students about living in the 1960's during the Civil Rights Movement and they can understand that better than reading it from the book sometimes

**HeatherBu** nods

**JoshG:** agrees I've been there

**PennyH:** Sometimes called "selective hearing" lol

**JoshG:** it is

**HeatherBu:** It's also important outside the classroom...we're trying to share the family stories when we get together, so they don't get lost.

**PennyH:** absolutely, I cherish the stories from my great aunts, uncles and great grandparents- talk about great resources

**GlynnB:** oral tradition no less

**PennyH:** Wow, that reminds me to reread the story The Watsons Go to Birmingham. This is a great storytelling book.

**FredK:** I liked Steve Hartman's "Everyone has a story" reports

**JeffC:** have them read the last few pages of Fahrenheit 451

**HeatherBu:** oh yes!

**PennyH:** I'll have to check that out

**KathrynHu:** ooh, good idea

**HeatherBu:** Fred? URL?

**GlynnB:** I have told stories, to my students, as if it happened to me and was able to describe the emotions, pain etc of the event.

**FredK:** He was a news reporter on CBS I think

**HeatherBu:** And then there's NPR's Story Booth

**SusanR:** <http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/hartman/main500155.shtml>

**HeatherBu:** thanks, Sue

**HeatherBu:** And then there's NPR's Story Booth

**SusanR:** <http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/hartman/main500155.shtml>

**HeatherBu:** thanks, Sue

**FredK:** thanks

**SusanR:** everyone loves a heartwarming story

**BJB:** we're almost at the end of the hour!

**HeatherBu:** noooooo

**BJB:** the next storytelling discussion will be on August 9

**BJB:** . o O ( 2nd Wednesday of the month )

**KathrynHu:** good

**FredK:** Was it Disney that put together "The Storyteller" where he brought to life old fables?

**GlynnB:** Will you tell us a story, Bj so we don't have to go at the end of the hour?

**BJB:** any last comments or questions? Don't forget to join the group and come back to the room and look at the many resources available here

**HeatherBu:** the npr link

**HeatherBu:** <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4516989>

**PennyH:** Thanks. This was a great first experience

**BJB** tells Glynn a goodnight story

**BJB:** glad you could join us, Penny

**FredK:** What about next Wednesday?

**BJB:** next Wednesday is TAPPED IN FESTIVAL!!!!

**BJB:** don't miss it! The theme is Sustaining Professional Development Online

**GlynnB:** I can have sweet dream now, thanks, Bj

**HeatherBu** cheers for Festival!!!

**BJB:** 12 hours of events

**HeatherBu:** come one, come all!

**PennyH:** Good night

**BJB:** and you can get a certificate of participation for attending a minimum of three events

**GlynnB:** Thanks for a great session, Bj

**JeffC:** tyvm

**BJB2** waves goodnight. Thanks, everyone, for your contributions

**FredK:** I tried your link for digital story. It gave me a not available

**SusanR:** Next Wednesday..my calendar is marked!

**HeatherBu:** Thanks, BJ

**FredK:** thanks Bj

**PennyH:** <http://www.digitales.org>

**HeatherBu** . o O ( it BETTER be, Sue! )

**GlynnB:** bye, Bj

**JoshG:** thanks for letting me come

**BJB** left the room (signed off).