

STORYTELLING

Tips for teachers



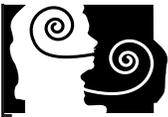
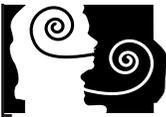


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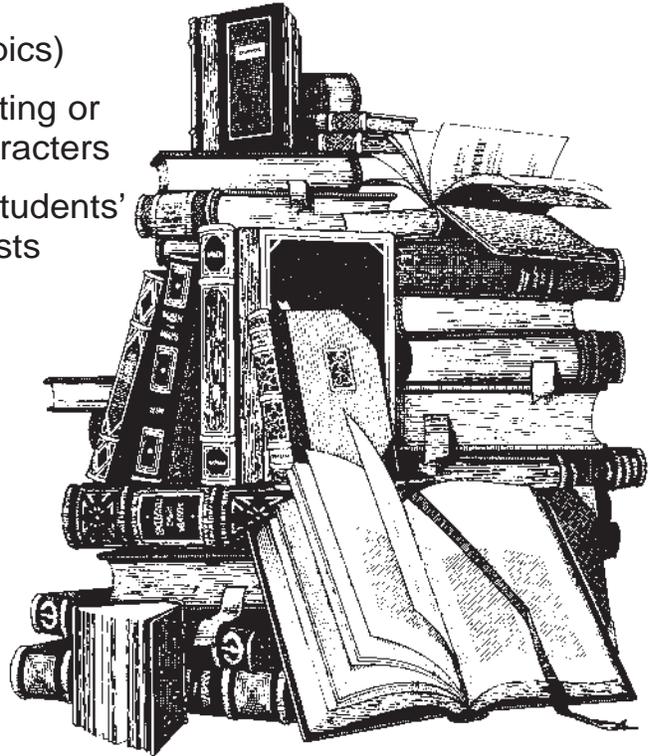
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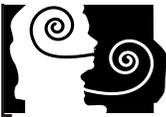


1

Choose a story

- that you like, that you feel comfortable with, and which values you share
- that your own children enjoy or enjoyed
- that relates to the theme you are working on
- that is compatible with a current event (e.g., the Olympics)
- that has interesting or memorable characters
- that relates to students' lives and interests
- that the students have selected or suggested
- that has repetitive patterns
- that allows the students to explore a broad area of learning
- that provides a solution to a conflict



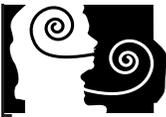


2

Prepare thoroughly

- Rehearse before telling the story to your students.
- Practise different voices for the characters.
- Practise using facial expressions, gestures, props, sound effects, etc., to convey meaning and feelings to your students.
- Read the story to a small, friendly audience before you read it to your students.
- Get information on the author, the time period when he or she wrote the story, etc., to introduce the story to your students.
- Prepare visual support (illustrations, flash cards, etc.).
- Make a recording of your narration of the story.

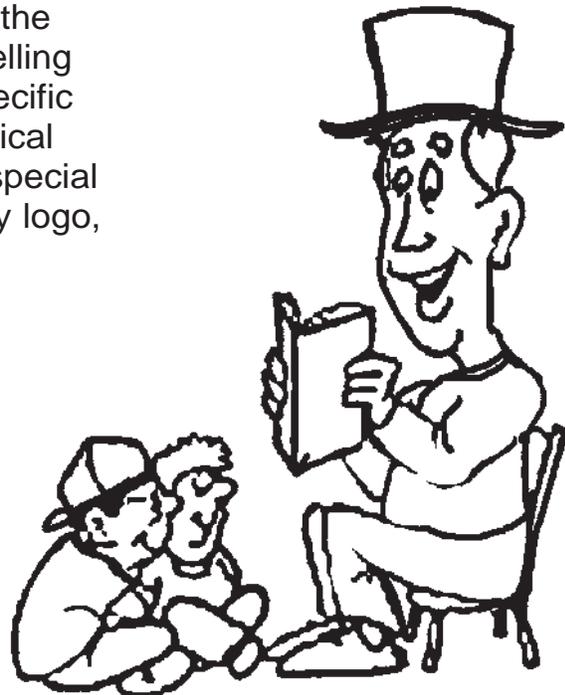




3

Create a cozy atmosphere for storytelling time

- Adopt a story-time routine (sit in a rocking chair, wear a fancy hat, have a mascot, etc.).
- Decide where you want the students to sit (near you on the floor, on their chairs, in a special corner of the classroom, etc.).
- Get students in the mood for storytelling time using a specific gimmick (a musical background, a special puppet, a catchy logo, etc.).



4

Stimulate your students' interest for the story



- Bring in a prop related to the story or ask students to bring in props.
- Use objects related to the story and ask students to think why and how these objects could be important in the story.
- Dress up as one of the characters.
- Use the cover page and the title of the book to introduce the story, or have the students anticipate what the story is about.
- Talk about the author (nationality, hobbies, interests, popularity, age, etc.).
- Have a brief exchange on the topic, the theme and the characters of the story.
- Ask students to create or find a song that goes with the story.
- Invent a story using the students as the characters.

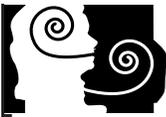


5

Make your students part of the storytelling experience

- Ask the students to predict the outcome of the story.
- Make eye contact with your audience.
- Allow students to respond to the story with nonverbal reactions. Be aware of your students' reactions.
- Have the students make sound effects to stress certain passages of the story.
- Use flash cards with illustrated key words and expressions to support the students' comprehension.
- Encourage students to participate in the reading of the story by repeating a recurring passage in chorus.
- Get a student to share telling the story with you.
- Use graphic organizers to support the students' comprehension of the story.
- Use stories that allow students to choose the way they want the plot to develop and end (make up your own story).





6

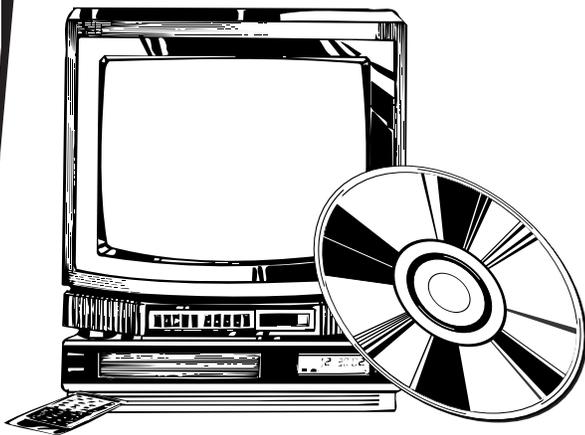
Keep the rhythm of the story going

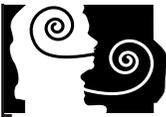
- Don't lessen the suspense or ruin the climax with a lot of questions that interrupt the flow.
- Don't kill the story by asking the students to find answers to a series of questions as a postreading activity.

7

Present stories in alternative ways

- Use a felt board, slides, CD-ROMs, overhead projector, multimedia projector, audiotapes, videocassettes, etc.
- Have students read the class a book they personally enjoyed, found funny, etc.
- Invite a special guest to tell the story.





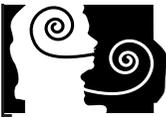
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Make the most of the story

- Ask the students to change the story (invent a new ending, create a sequel, etc.).
- Have the students make a book jacket, write a minibook based on the story, etc.
- Have a make-believe story day in which students take the roles of characters from different stories.
- Have students act out the story, a new ending they invented or a sequel they created.
- Take multiple intelligences into consideration in planning a variety of tasks related to the story.
- Ask the students to describe how they relate to the characters of the story.
- Have the students make bookmarks based on the most important elements or events of the story.
- Have the students make mobiles representing the parts of the story they enjoyed most.
- Read dialogues from the story and ask students to say which characters are speaking.
- Have students make comic strips that illustrate the important elements or events of the story.
- Keep the suspense going by taking more than one class period to finish the story.
- Have the students, working in pairs, prepare questions to ask the main character of the story. The teacher or a student can play the character's role.
- Have the students rewrite the story in a different time frame (future/past).
- Have the students prepare a board game or a crossword puzzle to reinvest their understanding of the story.
- Have the students reorder the events of the story to create a new sequence.
- Have the students read their stories to younger students.

Tips for high school teachers

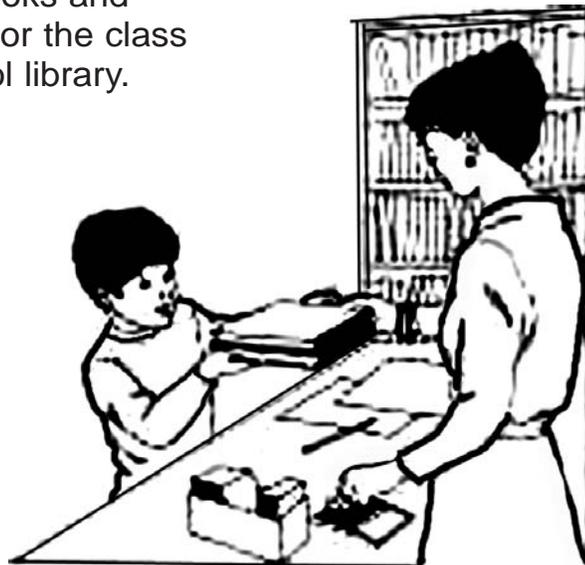
- Have the students find information about an author.
- Ask the students to guess the kind of intelligences the characters have.
- Transform the story into a comic strip, a movie or a video.
- Have the students find stories on the Internet and present them to the class.
- Have Secondary IV and V students tell the story to Secondary I students.

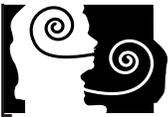


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Make books available

- Set up a special corner in your classroom or the school library to display books.
- Provide a list of books to parents so they can encourage their children to read.
- Give students time to browse through books before selecting one.
- Involve students in the choice of books and magazines for the class or the school library.
- Have students take books home for bedtime reading.
- Get students to bring books on a particular theme to class.
- Ask parents to donate books.





10 A happy ending



Be enthusiastic!



Share your love of books!



Enjoy yourself!



Encourage your students to read outside the class!