

Study Guide for Teachers

Sherry Norfolk

"Go Global!" Storytelling Performance

About Sherry Norfolk:

With a B.A. in Elementary Education (Indiana University 1974), and a Masters in Library Science (Indiana University 1979), Sherry Norfolk performs and teaches storytelling residencies through the Georgia Council for the Arts, Alabama State Council on the Arts, Kentucky Arts Council, Alaska Arts Council, South Carolina Arts Commission, and Young Audiences of St. Louis. Her 17- year career as a children's librarian led her to storytelling as an effective means of motivating children to read, and her years in the pre-K and primary classroom taught her the power of storytelling as an educational tool. Sherry currently serves as consultant to Turner South in developing and implementing their "Storytelling in Education" project. She and her husband Bobby are the co-authors of *The Moral of The Story: Folktales for Character Development* (August House Publishers, 1999).

Curriculum Connections:

Social Studies: Kindergarten: My World; **Grade One:** Our Northern Neighbor (Canada) & Our Southern Neighbor (Mexico); **Grade Two:** Japan and Australia; **Grade Three - Five** Multi-cultural;

Language Arts: K-5: Listening to a variety of genres (folktales) from various cultures; compare and contrast; predict and infer

Program Objectives

Students will learn that:

- Stories provide a glimpse of the people, animals, customs and beliefs of other countries
- Stories from around the world reflect universal themes and values: we are all different and the same!

Program Summary

A wide variety of international folktales filled with laughter, tears, magic and music emphasize the connectedness of us all. Richly interlaced with cultural details that reflect the daily lives of the original tellers, these highly interactive stories draw children into an experience that enriches the imagination, expands the vocabulary and teaches empathy and understanding.

Vocabulary

Continent - one of the seven huge land masses on the planet

Folktales -- a story without a known author, passed on in the oral tradition for hundreds of years

Oral tradition -- the practice of telling and re-telling stories without writing them down

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Overview of Art Form:

Storytelling is the art of using words, gestures, facial expression, and body language to bring a story to life in the listener's imagination. From the beginning of time, storytelling has been the way cultures have preserved and celebrated their memories, passed on their values and belief systems, entertained, instructed and reported. Today, storytelling continues to invite us all to "Enter the Theater of the Mind -- the Imagination!"

Pre- and Post Activities:

Pre: Look at a globe or world map and locate the continents and familiar countries.

Post:

Multicultural: Each of these stories comes from a different culture. Look at the ways habitat, religious beliefs and cultural values are reflected in these stories. compare & contrast the rabbit's character in each story.

Literature & Language Arts: ask students to write their own how and why story about an animal specific to one of the countries they are studying.

Science: Ask students to compare scientific fact to the details of a "how and why" story from a specific culture.

History & Social Studies: using the framework of a traditional folktale such as "The Little Girl and the Gunnwolf," as children to write their own story, adding cultural details from a specific region.

Foreign Language: Find a traditional folktale that is told in the areas where the specific language is spoken. Ask children to translate the repeated words and phrases into that language (for example, a traditional story told in many Hispanic countries is "Martina the Cockroach." Children can name the characters -- dog, cat, frog and mouse -- in Spanish.) and re-tell the story.

Music: Several of these stories include music, dance or rhythms that the children learn and perform along with the teller. Expand on these, adding authentic instruments and further lyrics..

Resources

Resources for Folktales from Around the World

Jennings, Linda. *A Treasury of Stories from Around the World*. Kingfisher, 1992.

McCarthy, Tara. *Multicultural Fables and Fairy Tales: Stories and Activities to Promote Literacy and Cultural Awareness*. Scholastic, 1992.

Webber, Desiree, et. al. *Travel the Globe: Multicultural Story Times*. Libraries Unlimited, 1998.