

Title of presentation as announced in Program Book: *“Storytelling in Jewish Libraries: Share the Meises,”* by Susan Stone.

Susan Stone is a Professional storyteller who has shared Jewish stories for adults and children all over the country. From dramatic, introspective Jewish tales for adults, to lively participatory stories for children, at CAJE, simchas, synagogues, services and schools. She also teaches storytelling to teachers at National-Louis University, is an author, and has been honored with awards for her CD's of Jewish stories for children: Parents' Choice Gold Award, Storytelling World Award, and NAPPA Gold Award. Please visit her website at: www.susanstone-storyteller.com

Description:

Once upon a time there were librarians who could really make Jewish stories come alive for the yeladim (children) in their libraries; they could “lift the story off the page”. They could read books as well as tell stories with skill, passion and joy, making children want to read and learn MORE. If you want to make this story have a happy ending, come to this workshop and have some FUN.

Storytelling in Jewish Libraries: Share the Meises

Presented at the
Association of Jewish Libraries Convention
Chicago, 2009

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Lifting the Story Off the Page: Storytelling

“Let me tell you a story.....

Whether you are reading books to children or telling a tale without a book, stories need to come alive—to be lifted off the page with our “storytelling instruments”. We can translate one dimensional images (book illustrations) into three dimensional images by helping children use their *image-ination*; cinema of the mind. We can do this by using our non-verbal storytelling skills. That is what this workshop is about!

What is storytelling?

Storytelling is a way pre-literate peoples (including children) have always learned about the world around them—the sky, moon, seeds, rainbows, frogs...as well as relationships, conflict resolution, history and values. In tales we are able to conjure images—like magicians—we don’t need the symbols (words) so we can still participate as a group in the learning, sharing and fun. We are all able to image in our own unique way; we are all equal in this setting. No one can find fault with us. There is only success. There is only joy. (Adapted from *Storytelling: Process and Practice* by Norma Livo)

Librarians telling tales (some examples)

--Using storytelling across the curriculum (for Jewish Day Schools)

A. Becoming famous mathematicians, historical figures, scientists, geography, geology, biology *porquoi* (why) stories, Astronomy

C. Character Education (aren’t all Jewish stories character education?)

--Types of Jewish Stories

A. Torah

B. Midrash (including Talmud)

C. Holiday and literary stories (books!!)

D. Family Stories

E. Folk and fairy tales

-Supernatural tales

-mystical tales

-Sephardic tales

-Elijah, King Solomon, Chelm

Stuff to Talk About

Brain based learning: “Developing Your Visualization Muscle”

a)Integrate novel or strong emotional connections

- b)Use laughter
- c)Allow movement
- d)Integrate external and internal attention
- A. Standards addressed in speaking and listening
- B. Multicultural folklore explored
- C. Addresses multiple intelligences
- D. Telling stories to younger children (role models, discipline)
- E. ESL

Advantages of Telling Meises Rather than Reading

You can see the children's eyes and they can see your face

You can "grab" the children when they lose focus

You can have your hands free for puppets, instruments or gestures

You appear to have actually "been there" because there is no "3rd party"

You can improvise if something is too scary, or you're getting laughs

But I Just want to Read Books to the Children...

Ok...no problem. Reading is swell. But how are you going to make this an event? How will you leave your listeners wanting more? How can they create the images in their minds without seeing the pictures? How can you use the illustrations and still have the children involved?

SEE: Storytelling Worksheet

SEE: Tips for Telling on the next page

SEE: Creating Visual Imagery (handout)

Storytelling Worksheet

(Use the list below to help you keep track of the tales you learn, or want to learn. Keep these in a file).

1. Title and type of tale (folktale, midrash, literary tale, holiday, etc.)
2. Synopsis (very brief summary—a few sentences)
3. Memory graphic (story map of some kind) (Kidspiration Software is great for this)
4. First line (What will YOU say, not what the paper says)
5. Ending line exactly as you will say it.
6. Characteristic language (what do you absolutely need to keep in the tale—repetitive language, song, rhyme, participation, etc.)

TIPS FOR TELLING
compiled by
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Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Are you seeing your audience? Are they listening? Interested? Do you see their eyes?
2. Are you rushing through important moments?
3. When did you decide to pause and use silence?
4. Does your introduction set the mood? Motivate the listener to want to listen?
5. Do you change your eye focus to differentiate between characters?
6. Do you change your pacing when necessary? Volume?
7. Do you have a definite strong ending sentence?
8. Do you pause after your last sentence before you sit down?
9. Can you be heard? Words understood (not slurred or mumbled)?
10. Are you clearly having fun telling your story?
Does the audience feel like you really want to tell it to them? Are you giving a gift?
11. Do you highlight the main event of the story in some way (volume, pacing, silence, etc.)? Do you know what the other important events are so you don't rush through them? (We call this the main beat).
12. Have you added any embellishment of your own? (Character description, setting, a song, sound effects, audience participation, props, puppets, costume, foreign words with translation??)

Brief Bibliography to Learn About Storytelling

Compiled by Susan Stone

Bringing Out Their Best: Values Education and Character Development Through Traditional Tales

By Norma J. Livo

Every Child a Storyteller: A Handbook of Ideas

By Harriet Kinghorn and Mary Helen Pelton

Look What Happened to Frog: Storytelling in Education

By Pamela Cooper and Rives Collins

Stories Neverending: A Program Guide for Schools and Libraries

By Jan Irving

The Storyteller's Guide: Storytellers Share Advice for the Classroom, Boardroom, Showroom, Podium, Pulpit, and Center Stage

By David Holt and William Mooney

****Storytelling: Imagination and Faith*** (chapters on Jewish storytelling)

By William J. Bausch

****Storytelling and Spirituality in Judaism*** (comprehensive)

By Yitzhak, Buxbaum

The Storyteller's Start-up Book : Finding, Learning, Performing, and Using Folktales including Twelve Tellable Tales

By Margaret Read MacDonald

Touch Magic: Fantasy, Faerie & Folklore in the Literature of Childhood

By Jane Yolen

Useful Websites

www.jewishstorytelling.org (Directory of storytellers; annotated bibliography)

<http://www.folklore.org.il> (Jewish folklore in Israel)

www.storynet.org (National Storytelling Network)

Susan's Favorites for Finding Tales... A brief Jewish bibliography

Ausubel, Nathan, ed. **A Treasury of Jewish Folklore: The Stories, Traditions, Legends, Humor, and Wisdom of the Jewish People.** NY: Crown Publishers, 1990
A comprehensive treasury containing 750 stories organized according to themes and characters with introductions which synthesize wide-ranging knowledge and scholarship of Jewish folklore and traditions. The book also includes humor, sayings, and 75 songs. This "classic" popular anthology was originally published in 1948.

Bin Gorion, Micha Joseph. **Mimekor Yisrael: Classical Jewish Folktales.** Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press, 1 volume in abridged and annotated edition, 1990
This 512 page anthology "from the source of Israel" offers National, Religious Folktales, and Oriental stories culled by Dan Ben-Amos from the original monumental 3 volumes and with extensive headnotes to each tale and other annotations. There is also a 1-volume edition containing 113 of the most popular tales but without commentary.

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. **A Child's Book of Midrash: 52 Jewish Stories from the Sages.** Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc., 1990.
52 brief stories collected from the Talmud and other sources of midrashim, especially for children, that illuminate Jewish ethical and moral values.

Frankel, Ellen. **The Classic Tales: 4000 Years of Jewish Lore.** Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson Inc., 1989
A representative collection containing 300 Jewish tales which span 4,000 years of Jewish literature, from biblical to modern times. In addition to the introduction there are appendixes of sources, bibliography, glossary, and indexes

Sadeh, Pinhas. **Jewish Folktales.** (Translated from Hebrew by Hillel Halkin) NY: Doubleday, 1989 This comprehensive anthology of over 250 diverse stories draws heavily on the Israel Folktale Archives and Eastern European literary sources. The foreword and afterword essays are enlightening along with the source credits. In some cases, there needs to be more specific attributions.

Schram, Peninnah. **Jewish Stories One Generation Tells Another.** Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, an Imprint of Rowman & Littlefield, 1987
64 wide-ranging stories and folktales culled from various Jewish oral and written traditions with source-filled introductions to each story and an index. The tales capture the oral style of this storyteller.

Schwartz, Howard and Barbara Rush. **The Diamond Tree: Jewish Tales from Around the World.** Illustrated by Uri Shulevitz. NY: HarperCollins, 1991
A children's book of 15 folktales drawn from the Midrash, medieval Jewish folklore, and from the Israel Folktale Archives, including East European and Middle Eastern tales.

Weinreich, Beatrice S. **Yiddish Folktales.** (Translated by Leonard Wolf) NY: Pantheon, 1988 These wisdom-filled 178 brief Yiddish tales from the archives of the YIVO Institute are divided into 7 sections: allegorical tales, children's tales, wonder tales, pious tales, humorous tales, legends and supernatural tales. Excellent endnotes are supplied.