

Kevin Cordi Create a legacy for tomorrow. This workshop will focus on how storytellers can help new and novice storytellers. We will also focus on passing on the old stories and the old traditions.

People are hungry for stories. It is part of our very being. Storytelling is a form of history, of immortality too. It goes from one generation to another.

-----Studs Terkel

How Do Storytellers Help Novice Storytellers Learn the Craft?

1. Recognize there is a storyteller in all of us. Robin Moore in his book **Creating A Family Storytelling Tradition** said, “Inside each of us is a natural-born storyteller, waiting to be released.” However, unless we truly listen to the stories, regardless of how they are told, we will never hear that hidden storyteller. We need to first listen to whatever story is being told and appreciate the value that it is told and only when the storyteller says they are ready, offer what we view as more to the story.
2. Arrange Quality Time to Listen. Storytelling and listening to stories has to be part of your schedule. Arrange a time to listen and tell stories on a consistent basis. Arrange quality time, a time when listening and telling can be given priority, and stick to that schedule. People need to depend on a frequent time to tell and listen to stories. It must be a part of their lives. It can not be ignored, everyone has stories that are waiting to be told.
3. Check Your Critic Hat At the Door Unless Someone Asks You To Wear It. After you establish a place for story, make sure it is a comfortable place. Listen to stories and after you listen for awhile the teller will share when he or she wants ideas to help them with their stories. At all times the teller should be in charge of how a story is developed. Your job is to listen and offer to share ideas, but if a teller does not feel they are ready to hear these ideas, respect that the story is told. In a community of storytelling, where a place is provided on a consistent basis, improvement will show.
4. Keep Praise in the Program However, very few, if any at all, tellers mind Hearing praise for their work. Don't be bashful about saying something you Specifically liked or enjoyed in a story. If someone can see that you honor the Story by your words of praise, the teller is more apt to listen to your suggestions As well.
5. Challenge The Group as Tellers. Once you are comfortable being in an environment of praise and acceptable for suggestions, experiment with stories. Have workshops on voice; arrange separate meetings to discuss topics like tandem telling, personal tales, fractured fairy tales, and folk tale recovery.

Listen to the needs of the group of tellers. They will tell you the areas they care to grow, provide a place for that growth.

6. Adopt A Teller. Experienced tellers need to help novice tellers. The learning Rewards will come for both the teller and the novice teller. Take a personal Interest in building a legacy by helping one teller shares his or her stories. Provide this for free because it is not an investment where you both learn, but it is giving back to the community of storytelling. It is worth the investment.
7. Become A Personal Coach for the Teller. Too many storytellers have been telling and learning about the process by themselves. Storytelling is meant to be a communal art. As much as the storytelling meetings are at a consistent time, arrange a time, whether it is in person or over the phone, to coach each other. True coaching is simply listening to each other and responding to what is shared. Listen to the needs of the teller and develop your praise and suggestions from there. You will find the more you coach and are coached, your practice and craft of telling stories will improve.
8. Don't Rush Your Life when Telling Stories. The way you process time, the Mindset you have for the time you spend in telling stories can help or hinder your work in storytelling. Arrive fifteen minutes early and leave fifteen minutes late. Follow the philosophy of "no time for a hurry." Sift your ideas, Process your praise, listen to suggestions, and make time for sharing stories and Not just telling them. Sharing stories is a time when stories are felt as well as heard. It can only be achieved if you allow the time that is required to look at times before the story, during the story, and after the story. This is those magic pauses, the wonderful silence, the talk of your story after and more. It does not happen all the time, but it happens often if you provide the time.
9. Keep in mind telling stories can be work; however, it is shared work. Tell stories even when you are not ready. Tell stories to see what magic happens when you don't think you are prepared. Tell stories that have unique advantages. Work the process of story. Examine like a new diamond. Inspect, watch it shine, watch glow, watch it cut glass, but most important, let it shine. Even if the story is not as polished, your supportive group will help you see it glow.
10. Sign Up for the International Mentor Program Arranged by NSN. See me. Have Fun on this Journey. Learn from Each Other. Enjoy the glow!

Let me know how I can help. -----Kevin Cordi

www.kevincordi.com

“Together we make a difference with story.”