

Storytelling Tips
by Multicultural Storyteller Andy Fraenkel

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- **Find a story that you enjoyed reading.
- **Read the story aloud several times. Note the characters and progression of events.
- ** Practice telling the story in your own words.
- **Storytelling exercises the imagination. Use visualization - see the story unfold in the mind's eye and describe what you're seeing.
- **Go back and read it aloud again.
- **Find the conflict, the tension. What do the characters in your story want most? What is preventing them from getting it? How do the characters change by the end of the story?
- **Know how you will start and end the story.
- **What does the story tell you about how people treat one another?
- **Determine that the story is appropriate for your audience.
- **Stand comfortably. Look out to your audience, here and there, making eye contact. Don't look down and talk to the floor.
- **Punctuate the story with gesture. Find a word or phrase where a gesture or movement would strengthen the telling. Don't make unnecessary, distracting movements with your hands.
- **Speak clearly. Enjoy the texture of the words. In general, we have a tendency to speak too quickly. Slow down.
- **Breathe deeply. Relax and enjoy telling the story. Pause slightly at the end of the story.
- **Avoid: beginning with an apology; long introduction; getting sidetracked; fidgeting; moralizing; character voices if you're not good at it – it's not really necessary.

For folktales, fairytales, and legends from around the world check 398.2 at your local library.