

# GUIDELINES FOR STORYTELLING PREPARATION

## CHOOSING YOUR STORY

All students in grades 3 through 8 are welcome to participate.

The story you tell must be one of the following kinds of stories: **Folk Tale, Fairy Tale, Myth, Legend, Fable or Tall Tale.**

You may find your story by:

1. Talking to your school or public librarian or teacher.
2. Browsing in the folk tale and fairy tale section (call # 398.2) or mythology section (call #292) of your school or public library.
3. Read several stories before you choose.
4. It may take you a few trips to the library to find your story.

**Choose a story you really enjoy and want to share with others.**  
**Choose a story that you feel comfortable telling.**

Remember the story you tell must be one of these:

**FOLK TALE:** This category includes all forms of narratives, written or oral, which have been handed down generation to generation and belong to a particular culture. Folk tales have no known authors. Examples include Native American, African, Irish, American South, and Chinese stories.

**FAIRY TALE:** A particular type of folk tale taking place in an unreal world. It contains elements of magic and supernatural happenings and is sometimes called a “wonder tale.” Examples: Collections by Grimm, Jacobs, Lang, and Perrault.

**MYTH:** A myth is a narrative describing origin, explaining natural or social phenomena or predicting the destiny of humans through the interaction of people and supernatural beings. Examples of myths come from Norse, Greek, Roman and Egyptian cultures. Many of the constellation stories are myths.

**LEGEND:** A legend is an account of an extraordinary happening believed to have actually occurred. It may recount a legend of something which happened in a past time and at a particular place. Examples: “Robin Hood,” “William Tell,” “King Arthur,” “Davy Crockett” and ghost stories. Many Native American stories are legends.

**FABLE:** A fable is a short story that teaches a lesson. Many fables are animal stories. Examples: Collections of Aesop and LaFontaine.

**TALL TALE:** Tall tales are stories of exaggerations and lies. Examples: “Paul Bunyan,” “Pecos Bill,” “Mike Fink,” and “Slew Foot Sue.”

When you have found a story that seems just right for you, check with your librarian or teacher to make sure your story follows the festival guidelines.

## **FESTIVAL GUIDELINES**

- A storyteller must learn the story from a published version. Word-for-word memorization is not required and not encouraged.
- Storytellers must tell the story without the use of any written material, props or costumes. Students are encouraged to try some different styles of storytelling – tandem stories or audience participation stories.
- The use of gestures should be natural and appropriate to the story. Exaggerated body movement should be avoided.
- Standing and sitting are both acceptable.
- The story should be appropriate, in terms of length and difficulty, to the grade level of the student.
- Poems are not acceptable; stories must be in prose.
- Original stories written by the student are not acceptable.
- There is a ten minute time limit but that does not mean each student must use the full ten minutes.
- Storytellers should tell a different story each year.

Once you choose your story, you are ready to begin **LEARNING YOUR STORY.**