

## **Storytelling: Materials and Techniques**

LBSC 745

Summer 2009

Wednesday and Friday 9:30-12:45

Jane Dorfman, Instructor

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### **Goals:**

Students will increase their knowledge of folk narrative in general and folklore for young people in particular.

Students will acquire practical techniques for selecting, learning, and performing stories.

Students will learn and perform at least three stories suitable for library performance.

### **Assignments and Grading:**

#### Written Work

30 % of final grade

Reading and annotation of books of story collections, and at least one electronic collection.

Essay evaluating storytelling experiences outside of class.

Design a story program for a particular event, geared to a particular audience

#### Oral Work

40%

Three stories performed in class: ideally, the stories chosen will increase in complexity and length and ages appropriate for.

#### Class participation

10%

This will include taking part in discussions, attendance, and punctuality. Students are expected to attend every class.

#### Experiences telling and listening outside of class

15%

Students will be expected to tell to an outside audience at least once and hear other tellers at two events and do a brief write-up.

#### Take-home folklore reference work

5%

*“To become a storyteller—tell stories. To become a better storyteller—tell more stories”*

--Papa Joe

#### University of Maryland Honor Pledge

I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination.

## Course Outline:

*Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>*

Discuss course structure and requirements  
Learn a story as a group.  
Discuss techniques for finding and learning stories.  
Begin selection process for first story.

*Friday, July 17*

For class—examine, annotate, and bring to class two collections of European folktales (excluding the British Isles) Include one collection of Grimm-- suggested translations: Crane, Gag, Jarrell, or the Pantheon  
Listen to at least two tellers from one of the suggested starred internet sites, write reactions, and turn in with annotations.  
Set lineup for telling first story, one suitable for K-3. Chosen from suggested Nursery Tales, or from Twenty Tellable Tales or other approved source, submit title.  
Read—from Twenty Tellable Tales by Margaret Read MacDonald the Preface and “Finding, Learning, and Telling Tales” pages 181-191  
Guest Teller—Bill Mayhew

*The child in the cradle knows the dragon; he needs stories to tell him of St. George.*

*Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>*

For class—examine, annotate, and bring to class three collections of folktales from the British Isles. (Ireland, Scotland, Wales or England)  
Examine and annotate one on-line source of stories from list, cover--ease of use, organization, authorship, and scope.  
Read from M.R. MacDonald “Origins of the Folktale Text” pages 192-194  
“Preparation” from Storytelling by Augusta Baker  
**Class members will tell their first story.**  
Guest Teller—Anne Sheldon

*Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>*

For class—examine, annotate, and bring to class three collections of African American folk tales, including any collection by Virginia Hamilton.  
Listen to at least two tellers from one of the suggested starred internet sites, write reactions, and turn in with annotations.  
Read “Researching Tale Variants” MacDonald, pages 198-204.

Guest Teller—Margaret Chatham

*Wednesday, July 29th*

For class—examine, annotate, and bring to class three collections of European-American folktales (not Native American or tall tales) Include either Jack Tales or Grandfather Tales by Richard Chase.

Read preface to Jack Tales by Chase.

Look for Of Mules and Men by Zora Neal Hurston

Discuss use of props and costume. Discuss the storytelling space and what goes between the stories.

Submit name and source for your second story. Suggested: a folktale or fairy tale suitable for middle school or upper elementary grades. 5-10 minutes long

Guest Teller—Vicki Velsey

*Friday, July 31st*

For class—examine, annotate, and bring to class three collections of Latin American or Caribbean folktales. Include The Magic Orange Tree by Diane Wolkstein.

Examine one collection of Cinderella variations, or three single story books. Annotate and highlight differences. Why do you think this is such a widespread story?

Read online article on the story Mr. Fox <http://www.hltmag.co.uk/jul02/sart6.htm>

Guest Teller— Bob Rovinsky

*Wednesday, August 5th*

For class—examine, annotate, and bring to class three collections of Native American folktales (Eskimo stories may be included). Look for The Naked Bear by John Bierhorst or People of the Short Blue Corn by Harold Courlander.

**Submit the details of where you will tell a story outside of class.**

Read “Cite the Source,” School Library Journal, July 1993 (on electronic reserve)

Read online a discussion of copyright at --

<http://www.copyright.cornell.edu/training/copyrightterm.pdf>

**Students will tell their second story.** Suggested: a folktale or fairy tale suitable for middle school or upper elementary grades. 5-10 minutes long.

*While truth wears its birthday suit: story is truth in a mix and match wardrobe.*

--Marilyn Kinsella

*Friday, August 7th*

For class—examine, annotate, and bring to class three collections of African or Middle Eastern folktales, including The Cowtail Switch by Harold Courlander. Web site from list may substitute for one collection.

Have listened to at least one teller at a storytelling event or swap. Discuss with class. Turn in write-up.

Guest teller—Cricket Parmalee

*Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>*

For class—examine, annotate, and bring to class three collections of Asian or Pacific Rim stories.

Submit and present briefly your detailed plan for a storytelling event. Occasion, theme, age range, length, etc. Make copies for the class and discuss.

Submit title and source for your final story, a longer, more complex story is suggested.

\*Students will tell their second story again, if time allows.

Read “Respect the Source” SLJ, August 1993 (on electronic reserve and online)

Guest Teller— possibly Linda Fang

*Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>*

For class—examine, annotate, and bring to class three collections of Literary Fairy Tales, one source to be from suggested list of web sites.

Take-home reference quiz due.

Submit title and source for final story.

Have listened to one more teller at a storytelling event or swap. Turn in write-up and discuss in class.

Read ‘Storytelling Styles’ M.R.M pages 195-197

Guest teller— Eve Burton

*Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>*

For class—examine, annotate, and bring to class three collections of folk or fairy tales, focus on ones you can imagine yourself telling. Web site from list may substitute for one, print out home page and attach.

Have listened to second outside teller. Write up and submit. Discuss with class.

Guest Teller—

*There are as many versions of a story as there are tongues telling it. --Mongolian saying*

*Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>*

Last Class

**Students will tell their final story!**

Literary or hero tale suggested, a bit longer one if you’re ready.

Adult friends and family may be invited.

Essays on outside experiences due.

*Appropriate accommodations will be made for any student with documented disabilities.*

*I do not have an office to have hours in, however I am happy to meet with student before or after class with advance notification*