

Storytelling Guidelines for the Classroom

Suggestions from Storyteller Glenda Bonin

- 1) Storytelling is fun, and no one has to tell a story if they don't want to.
- 2) Storytelling is a time for students to try something new, and to be in a safe environment as they explore different ways to tell a tale.
- 3) A story is never memorized; it is to be told as it is remembered.
- 4) Notes may not be used.
- 5) Telling a story is like telling a friend about something that happened.
- 6) Forgetting parts of a story or making mistakes is normal. This is how ordinary conversation takes place, and we usually find ways to correct these things as we talk to family and friends.
- 7) Listeners and storytellers understand that there is no right or wrong way to tell a tale; the idea is to share what you know.
- 8) No matter how a storyteller chooses to tell a story, it is correct.
- 9) No one may interrupt when a story is being told.
- 10) Listeners may not offer feedback to the storyteller unless it is requested.
- 11) The storytelling space is to be respected, and no one may discuss the coaching details outside of class, unless permission is granted by the storyteller.
- 12) A story is a gift from storyteller to listener. Once a listener receives a story, it can be recalled and shared with others. This is how stories travel around the world, and why so many wonderful tales have lasted for hundreds and hundreds of years.