

Top Tips for Telling Stories

These are tips for retelling an existing story - either something you heard from somebody else, something you found in a book, or something that happened to you.

1. Only tell a story you like.

2. If you find or hear a story you like, try to retell it to someone as soon as you can.

3. Spoken stories are different from written ones. So if you find a story in a book, you shouldn't try to tell it in the same way that it's written.

4. Different stories are suitable for different ages - develop a sense of your audience.

5. Storytelling is improvised. You don't have to learn any words. You just need to know how the story goes - the 'what happens'.

6. Don't worry about using flowery language to begin with. Start by telling the story in the right order, using '... and then', '... and then'.

7. Practice your story out loud - go for a walk and tell it to yourself. Then tell it to a friend or a member of your family.

8. The trick is to imagine what's happening in the story, and then tell what you see in your imagination.

9. Instead of adding too many adjectives and adverbs - add gesture, facial expression and expressive language to communicate what you're saying.

10. Be aware of the difference between when you - the narrator - is speaking, and when you are speaking the direct speech of characters.

11. Play with alliteration, rhythm and rhyme, and have fun with words.

12. Meet your audience in the eye: don't be shy!

Once you know this, you can bring a lot of energy to your story by becoming the characters.

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12. Meet your audience in the eye: don't be shy!
13. To be a good teller, you need to be a good listener. Listen to as many people telling stories as you can.