

Celebratin' Children!

With LuAnn Adams

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*"The Storyteller LuAnn Adams is a bit of an alchemist herself turning an ordinary room into a fantastical landscape as she relates her vivid tales." -
New York Times*

Celebratin' Children!

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- Notes from the Storyteller

Celebratin' Children! is a rollicking collection of folktales and true stories of delightful and inspiring 'can-do' kids.

Imagination is a need that every child has. Children who possess imagination have the ability to imagine and act upon, different solutions. They can see beyond the limitations of their present circumstances.

Through stories children can see that they are not alone in facing difficult and complex life issues. Through stories they understand that there are choices, productive ways of thinking, feeling and acting that allow them to face actual situations with greater strength and wisdom. Stories provide a nonjudgmental means by which young people can safely examine ideas and feelings.

Dealing with life's challenges is at the very heart of traditional stories, whether they are fairytales, folktales, myths or legends. Bruno Bettelheim emphasizes in his classic book The Uses of Enchantment that such tales teach the child that "a struggle against severe difficulties in life is unavoidable, is an intrinsic part of human existence - but if one does not shy away, but steadfastly meets unexpected and often unjust hardships, one masters all obstacles and emerges victorious." The great stories from throughout the world teach listeners that there is hope even in the darkest of circumstances, and that every person has reserves of possibilities and potential, of love, courage and compassion. Time-honored stories from many cultures teach young people about the qualities that shape relationships and sustain healthy human interactions.

Join me and travel to Haiti, China, Japan and Africa in stories and meet remarkable young people who, with honesty and pluck, ingenuity and courage, overcome their difficulties, while joyfully discovering who they are, what they can do and who they can be.

Celebratin' Children!

Preparing Your Students

Celebrate: To demonstrate with satisfaction: to observe a notable occasion with festivities!

In your classroom, make a list of events that celebrate a child/children in your class, school, communities and ways that children are celebrated within their families.

*Think of any other things that children might do/accomplish that they might be celebrated for doing.

Discuss why children are celebrated at these events and what you, families and communities do to make them meaningful and special for children. Events such as:

- Birthdays, Holidays, Music, Dance Concerts & Recitals, Art Exhibits, Losing a Tooth
- School Performances/Talent Shows/Athletic Teams
- Student of the Month/Week, Achievement, & Academic Ceremonies
- Feats of Courage, Standing up for a child being teased, etc.

Before/After the performance:

Classroom Celebration:

- Think of something you can do to celebrate each child in your classroom.

Ideas: Assign each child another child in the class, and have them write a compliment about that child anonymously. Put the notes into a bowl and read them aloud.

- Have students bring something from home that their parents do to celebrate them. (Ethnic costume, simple food their mom/dad cooks just for them, photograph of family celebrating them.) This can also include awards, trophies and certificates.

Community Celebrations:

-Think of something that you and your students can do to celebrate a child/children in your community or in the world:

Ideas: Collect gently used toys/books for children in a local homeless shelter or orphanage. Write letters to children at Shriner's Hospital. Write letters to a child who is missing a parent (i.e., a soldier) far away. Collect pennies for a cause that celebrates children. Organize a day where children pick up litter in a playground.

Celebratin' Children!

The Stories

Tipingee

Folktale from Haiti

How the Children Got the Sun up in the Sky

Folktale from Africa

The Boy Whose Seed Would Not Grow

Folktale from China

Brave Little Red

Re-telling of European Fairytale

My Twelve Days of Diving

Story by LuAnn Adams

About the Stories...

Tipingee

Tipingee's stepmother makes a bargain with a stranger who helps her carry wood. She tells him how to recognize her stepdaughter and that he may keep her as his maid. Tipingee foils her stepmother's plan and outwits the strange man, with the help of her wonderful best friend Marianna & the children at her school that want to help her.

How the Children Got the Sun Up in the Sky

A Khosian (Bushman) Porquoi Folktale from Africa. This is one of the oldest stories in the world. In the beginning, the world is dark. A boy is born with circles of light under his arms. Whenever he raises his arms up there is light, when his arms are down, it is dark. The Sunman lights up the world for many years and then asks the children to throw him up into the sky. It is the story of children seeing a need in their community and working together to make the world a better place for everyone.

The Boy Whose Seed Would Not Grow

The Emperor is very old and needs a successor to the throne, has no relatives. He needs to find a child who is unfailingly honest and loves nature as much as he does. He announces a simple but ingenious contest which is won by a boy with integrity and a gift for nurturing seeds.

Brave Little Red

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Little Red Riding Hood wants to visit her Grandmother who is sick. She must walk through the woods along where she meets a devious wolf. The wolf sneaks into her Grandmother's home & pretends to be her Grandmother in order to make a meal of both the Grandmother & Little Red. Little Red Riding Hood is able to save herself and her Grandmother. LuAnn's rhythmic re-telling of classic European Fairytale.

My Twelve Days of Diving

Have you ever wanted to go to diving in the ocean? A little girl dreams of traveling with her father. After a trip to the library, she falls asleep and dreams of an underwater adventure with her Dad. In her dream, she writes a song about the creatures they discover.

Questions & Activities/Some Things To Try!

Tippingee overhears her stepmother talking to the little magic man. What does she hear her stepmother say? When Tippingee shares her problem with Marianna, her best friend realizes a way that she & her sister can help Tippingee. What did Marianna realize that enabled her to get an idea of how she & her sister could help Tippingee? How do you think the other children found out & why do you think 20 girls wore yellow dresses? Why do you think the boys wore red dresses? Draw a picture of the children and the magic man when he sees all the children wearing red dresses. What do you think Tippingee's life is like now?

How the Children Got the Sun in the Sky

The Sunman has light in his arm pits. How do you think the light got there? What happens when he gets old? What do the children do to help the Sunman get in the sky? Why do you think the Sunman wants to go there? How do you think the moon got in the sky? The Stars? Lightning? Thunder? Tell a story/draw pictures to help tell your story.

The Boy Whose Seed Would Not Grow

What did Ping do to make his seed grow? What did the other children do? The Emperor had given the children (and their parents) a test. What did he want to find out? What did the Emperor discover? At the end of the story, it is said that Ping became one of the wisest and kindest Emperors in all of China. Describe and illustrate an example of what the Kingdom was like after Ping took over as Emperor.

My Twelve Days of Diving

Illustrate the underwater adventures of the little girl and her Dad. What creatures did they meet underwater? Can you list all 12? Which ones are your favorites? Make a new '12 Days', i.e., at the Library (books) the Zoo, the Beach or other places that you love or would like to visit!

Celebratin' Children: Bibliography

- *Children Tell Stories: A Teaching Guide* By Martha Hamilton & Mitch Weiss
- *The Power of Story: Teaching Through Storytelling* By Rives Collins & Pamela J. Cooper
- *Storytelling Games: Creative Activities for Language, Communication & Composition across the Curriculum* By Doug Lipman
- *Storytelling: Reading Aloud and Roleplaying with Children* By Bob Barton & David Booth

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LuAnn's Picture Book (& Audio Story) Recommendations

<i>Abiyoyo</i>	retold by Pete Seeger
<i>A Blind Boy Catches A Bird</i>	recorded on "Brave Little Red & other Tales" by LuAnn Adams
<i>Aliquipiso</i>	<i>The Girl Who Saved Her Tribe</i> from "Women Warriors" pgs. 71-73
<i>Amy's Letter</i>	by Ezra Jack Keats
<i>The Boy & the Ghost</i>	retold by Robert San Souci
<i>Brave Irene</i>	by William Steig
<i>The Butterfly</i>	by Patricia Polacco
<i>The Cherry Tree</i>	by Daisaku Ikeda
<i>Chicken Sunday</i>	by Patricia Polacco
<i>Crossing Bok Chitto</i>	retold by Tim Tingle
<i>The Empty Pot</i>	retold by Demi
<i>The Grain of Sand</i>	recorded on "Brave Little Red & other Tales" by LuAnn Adams
<i>Keep the Lights Burning Abbie</i>	by Peter Roop
<i>Maggie & the Pirate</i>	by Ezra Jack Keats
<i>Nadia the Willful</i>	by Sue Alexander
<i>Nomi & the Magic Fish</i>	by Phumbla M'bane
<i>Number the Stars</i>	Ten yr. old girl rescues Danish Jews, by Lois Lowry from "Third World Voice for Children" pgs. 25-28
<i>Nyganara</i>	by Lauren Thompson
<i>One Riddle, One Answer</i>	by Daisaku Ikeda
<i>Over the Deep Blue Sea</i>	by Patricia Polacco
<i>Pink & Say</i>	retold by Rafe Martin
<i>The Rough Face Girl</i>	from "Wonder Tales from Around the World" pgs. 117-121
<i>The Search for the Magic Lake</i>	by Daisaku Ikeda
<i>The Snow Country Prince</i>	recorded on "The Tricky Caterpillar..." by LuAnn Adams
<i>The Twelve Days of Diving</i>	recorded on "The Tricky Caterpillar..." by LuAnn Adams

30 Storytelling Tips For Educators:

Capture Your Students' Imagination!

By Julie DeNeen

Storytelling has been around as long as humankind. It is one of the most effective ways to communicate an important truth to another person. It gives meaning, context, and understanding in a world that is often filled with chaos and disorder. If a teacher becomes an excellent storyteller, he or she can ensure that any concept they teach will be remembered for years to come. Stories can be used to illustrate scientific or mathematical processes as well. Stories bring information, knowledge, and truth to life.

1. Every Part Must Be Essential When you compose your storyline, be it a fictional story to teach a lesson, or a non-fiction example, make sure that each part of the story is essential to the ending. Each character, point, or principle must somehow relate to the main point you are trying to drive home. Let's take for example, a story about the planets. You may be trying to help students memorize the order of the solar system. Any tale you concoct to help illuminate the facts must be related to the planets. Keep the main thing...the main thing.

2. You Must Have a Hook In Your Opening You hook the listener in by presenting a problem that encourages them to keep listening. You can use this tactic in any lesson. For example, if you are

teaching the concept of photosynthesis, start your story by imagining a world in which all the flowers didn't have leaves. You create a problem that the story (in this case photosynthesis) solves. In many cases, students don't realize how many principles they take for granted (gravity, light, etc.) Creating a world in which it is taken away reveals the ultimate importance of the process you are describing.

3. Draw a Theme Out of Your Story Stories have a depth of meaning when there is a theme. However, it isn't always easy to write a story with a theme in mind. Rather, write the story first- with all the points you want to cover. When you've finished, stand back from the story for a moment to see if you can draw out a theme.

4. Keep It Simple If your audience is young, simple is best. Scientific principles like gravity and electricity can be difficult for young minds. Using analogies can help. For example, to explain an electrical circuit, describe how a train can only move along tracks that are connected to each other. A broken track means the train must stop and electricity is the same way.

5. Maintain Eye Contact Eye contact is most important. It not only helps keep a student's attention, but it also conveys a sense of confidence and truthfulness. Always look directly into your student's eyes. You will connect with them and keep their attention longer.

6. Use Vivid Language That Kids Can Understand Some psychologists argue that telling stories is one of the primary ways humans learn. Even if you are teaching science or math concepts, pick a word or two that your students haven't heard of before. Describe and define the word first, and then use it throughout the story. For example, if you are talking science, identify the word "energy" and then use it several times during your story. By the end of the story, they will have learned the concepts of the tale plus some vocabulary.

7. Use Movement As the storyteller, you can paint pictures with your body- using your hands, feet, legs, and head. Similarly, you can ask the students to perform movements during certain parts of the story. This will help activate their memory and keep their attention focused on what you are communicating.

8. Use Dramatic Pauses People often talk more quickly than the brain can process. If you pause at crucial moments in the story, you give your students the chance to think critically about the piece of information you have just given. Don't be afraid to pause, especially at a tense moment.

9. Change Your Voice With Different Characters It helps to make characters more memorable when you give them personalities. Part of that includes changing your voice with each character. Without visual props, the voice is one of the best ways to bring the character to life.

10. Make Your Ending Strong With an Important Take Away Point The ending is the last thing your students will hear. Whatever points and/or principles you think are most important, put them at the end. If you can make the ending one sentence, this is even better. Use alliteration, repetitive words, or a singsong cadence to help make it memorable.

11. Tell The Truth, Even When It's Difficult Adults are tempted to lie to children when the situation seems too complex or mature for younger audiences. However, telling the truth is always preferable, even if you have to adapt some of the details and adjust your language for younger audiences.

12. Make The Character Relatable The main character of your story must be relatable to your students. You want them to "root" for the character's choices and decisions. One way to do this is to make the character "feel" real. He or she shouldn't be perfect, but have weaknesses and talents just like we all do. Student's love to root for the good guy in a story. Keep in mind; it doesn't have to be human. For example, when you talk about pollution, make recycled paper the good guy, and aerosol cans the enemy. Anything can have a good and evil counterpart.

13. Have Your Story Provide An Answer To a Problem Every story has theme or meaning. When you can tell a tale that provides a solution to a problem, there is higher likelihood that the story will take on a deeper

meaning when it solves a problem in real life. When you are trying to communicate facts (like multiplication facts for example) perhaps create a story in which a character must know those facts in order to divide her gifts up among her family members.

14. Know Your Ending Before You Begin Before you tell a story, know the ending. Good storytellers, when they begin to formulate their story, start at the end and work backwards. As you prepare, pick the ending first. Then think about the point that comes right before the end, then the point that comes before the point that gets to the end. Keep working backwards until you arrive at the beginning of your story.

15. Appeal To The Senses When preparing your story, activate as many senses as possible. The more a story activates the senses, the more memorable it becomes. For a lesson in geography, you can use a visual map first. Add a song to help memorize the countries or cities. Use props that the students can hold. Maybe you can offer a food from each locale, to activate touch and smell.

16. The Story Should Be "Trustable" Don't offer coincidences that magically solve the problem. Whatever world or situation your character is in, don't break its rules just to end the story.

17. Invite Interaction Depending on the subject, you may want to enlist your student's help in solving the problem. Perhaps you could tell the first half of the story and ask them to brainstorm an ending that solves the problem. Students can work in groups and learn from others who may have chosen to solve the story a different way. It helps students understand the idea that stories have multiple solutions.

18. Make The Stakes High Against The Goal Stories with a happy ending must first overcome obstacles. Before you get to the end of the story, you want to create dramatic tension that makes the listener think, "Will the character reach his or her goal?" A good story knows how to use tension. Whatever the hero wants, make it difficult for him or her to get there.

19. Use Props Almost any story can benefit from props, no matter what subject you are teaching. You can ask a student to hold the prop or even let students use the prop(s) in ways that create another problem in the story. Magicians often do this in their show. They ask someone to come to the front and help with juggling. Then, the magician allows the helper to "accidentally" break the plate that the magician plans to put together. This can work well in math. If you have a student manipulate a prop (like for example breaking several pretzels), you can then showcase the mathematical principles of fractions and division.

20. Create The Extraordinary Out of The Ordinary A story doesn't have to be dramatic in order to highlight a point. In many cases, taking a mundane event and looking at it from a different angle is just as profound. For example, if you are talking about accepting other cultures, try this. Pick a common ritual (like men shaving their faces), and tell the story from the angle of a character from another world that has never seen such a thing. Better yet, treat the students like they are from another world. "Did you know that I saw someone put a knife to his face the other day?!" Use different vocabulary words (like knife versus razor). "Then, he smeared this unknown substance all over his face and used the sharp edge of the knife to rub it off!" Your students might be shocked when you reveal that you were simply talking about shaving. Then you can go into the idea and philosophy behind prejudice and discrimination against other cultures that are unfamiliar.

21. Set The Scene It is crucial to create an environment for your story. Are you in the woods, on the beach, in a little apartment in the city, or on a different planet? Describe the surroundings, the weather, or the pre-existing conditions. Use rich detail so the students can picture the environment in their imaginations. Field trips are such a fantastic way to get into a different environment, but it isn't always possible. Words, descriptions of smell, sounds, and sights will make the story more meaningful.

22. Use Music Music is an excellent way to learn. If you are teaching the fifty states, a song with a catchy rhythm will help solidify the memorization process. Songs have long been used throughout history to help cultures preserve traditions and historic events.

23. Create Fun Sound Effects If it is a stormy night, enlist the help of your younger students by asking them to each be in charge of a "sound effect". Adding 'sounds' is fun to make a story participatory!

24. Have Your Students' Retell It Back To You Once you are done with your story, have the students form groups and re-tell the story in a different way. Perhaps, you can assign them the task of summarizing the story in a sentence. The important part about this concept is to get the student's involved in an active way. They've spent some time listening; now it is time to put it into action.

25. Draw Real Life Connections If your story teaches abstract concepts, find real life examples that make the information more meaningful. If you are trying to teach a history lesson, put the events in a different context. Imagine it now in the present day, with present situations. How would the scene play out in 2012 versus 1914? All of a sudden, history will feel much more "real" and alive.

26. Use Repetition This tip works well with younger students. Oftentimes, storybooks have a repeated phrase throughout the story (i.e. "I do not like green eggs and ham. I do not like them Sam I am). Do this when you start, in the middle, and at the end. Pick an important concept and repeat it over and over. You can describe the same concept with different words if you wish.

27. Write Your Story In One Sentence Before You Begin In order to keep your story simple and focused on what's important, narrow it down to one sentence. Start with the beginning, and then add the middle, and the end. In the sentence, you should get the main purpose of the story, as well as the competing concept that threatens the story's goal. Some people might think, "I can't narrow down my story to one sentence!" Yes you can. It will force you to iron out the most crucial points. Once you do this, expand the sentence into a paragraph. Then expand each sentence in the paragraph to its own paragraph. Continue onward until your story is complete.

28. Avoid Detours Simplify, simplify, simplify. Cut out characters, scenes, and information that do not somehow work towards the goal of the story. If you aren't sure if something is crucial or not, tell it to a friend or fellow teacher, and remove the parts in question. If the story still flows well and has meaning, then it wasn't necessary.

29. Create a Timeline Write a timeline of events for you to keep track of the order. You can even put up an empty timeline on the board, and as you tell the story- add the important events as they happen. Combine the idea of props and interaction into your timeline. When you are done, the timeline will be filled out, and act as a visual prop for your students.

30. Don't Give Away Too Much! When you tell a story that has some mystery, you invite the listeners to try to figure out the solution for themselves. When they do, chances are- it will be more memorable and long lasting. The key is to give enough information so the student can solve the problem, but not so much that it is obvious. If you leave no trail of hints and clues, then it will be frustrating and impossible to solve. Invite your students into the storytelling process. Give them enough to understand and follow along, but not so much that you are spoon-feeding. Add drama, props, effects, and set the scene, so the listeners are drawn into the story; its characters, problem, and ultimately, the solution.

"Tell me a fact and I learn. Tell me a truth and I'll believe. But, tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever." - Native American Proverb

LuAnn Adams

is an award-winning storyteller, recording artist, actor & author. She tells stories for children & adults at schools, theaters, libraries, museums, zoos, aquariums, wildlife centers, festivals, hospitals & special-needs learning centers across the United States—as well as in Vietnam, Cambodia & Egypt. Each storytelling performance inspires young people to discover their courage, explore the healing power of dialogue for creating choices & embrace their hope-filled dreams for a peaceful world.

LuAnn has performed at & received 23 touring grants from the **Cincinnati Playhouse** to create & perform multicultural storytelling programs for children & families in schools in the Ohio & Kentucky. Her animal storytelling programs have delighted visitors at national wildlife centers, zoos & aquariums New York & New Jersey for more than 15 years. LuAnn conducted storytelling master classes at **Northwestern University** in Chicago for five years. She has performed in Elementary & Middle Schools & for the **Clark County School Librarians Association (CCSLA)** annual meetings in Las Vegas. LuAnn has created, performed & conducted storytelling residencies extensively in NYC & East Coast schools for more than 25 years. For the past 5 years she has performed Civil War stories for History Re-Enactment Festivals in Minnesota, sharing stories with more than 20,000 Middle & High School students.

LuAnn created & will be performing **"The Rabbit in the Moon & other Marvelous Tales of the Night Sky"** at the Abrams Planetarium in East Lansing Michigan in March 2020. This is her 2nd performance series for the Wharton Center, she performed **"Jaws, Paws & Claws - Animal Wisdom Tales"** at the **Pasant Theater** in January 2017.

LuAnn is a member of the National Storytelling Network, New York Storytelling Center, Actor's Equity Association & SAG-AFTRA. She has a BA in Theater Arts & Child Psychology from Macalester College & an MFA in Acting from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Her award-winning storytelling CDs may be found in schools, libraries & homes all over the world.

"The storyteller LuAnn Adams is a bit of an alchemist herself, turning an ordinary room into a fantastical landscape as she relates her vivid tales."

- *New York Times*

Watch LuAnn's Storytelling:

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LuAnn's CDs are available for download & purchase at CDBaby.com, Amazon.com:

"Jaws, Paws & Claws - Animal Wisdom Tales"

Won: *The National Parenting Publications (NAPPA) Gold Award*

"Tipingee, Brer Rabbit & The Mouse That Barked"

Won: *The National Parenting Publications (NAPPA) Gold Award*

"The Tricky Caterpillar & other Tales"

Won: *The Parents' Choice Silver Honors Award & The National Parenting Publications (NAPPA) Honors Award*

"Brave Little Red & other Tales"

Won: *The Parents' Choice Recommended Seal & The National Parenting Publications (NAPPA) Gold Award*

"These excellent collections of well-told tales deserve a place in every library with an audio storytelling collection." - School Library Journal

