

Let's Have Fun Together with Children – Storytelling!

Hello everyone! The winter holiday season is coming and there are many fun activities to do in class with your students. One of the best things to do together is storytelling! Storytelling is very effective at stimulating children's imaginations. It also provides a chance to share exciting experiences this Christmas.

Below we point out the purpose and some benefits of storytelling. We also provide some tips on how to make the storytelling experience better for your students. Our last section includes a list of recommended Christmas books for children. It features classics and more modern stories for children aged 5-10 years old. Make storytelling part of your Christmas lesson or party this year!

BENEFITS OF STORYTELLING

Storytelling:

- teaches children about themselves and to make up their own stories.
- helps them in both reading and writing.
- helps in predicting and knowing what to expect.
- creates a relaxed and intimate classroom atmosphere.
- introduces children to a variety of stories by providing models themes and experiences
- encourages emotions such as humor, joy, sadness, etc.
- increases knowledge of other places and cultures.
- introduces new ideas and concepts in a safe manner.
- teaches children to listen, concentrate and follow logic.
- focuses on role playing and making logical conclusions.
- makes it easier to learn and understand complicated ideas.
- helps us make sense of our world.
- allows the teacher and student to enjoy the story together.
- allows students may relate the story to their own life.

Stories should have:

- uncomplicated plots that are easy to understand.
- pictures or art work.
- only a few characters.
- action and excitement.
- a definite climax.
- a satisfactory conclusion for the students.

Storytellers should:

- be flexible so they can expect various reactions. Students' enjoyment is the top priority.
- have a good memory and listening skills so they can tell the story well.
- explain some phrases in Japanese so students can understand faster.
- not be a performer and overact. This can take away from the impact of the story.
- ask students to participate in the story by asking them what they think will happen next.
- make sure that students are paying attention to words or the pictures in the book.
- encourage students to expand and experiment with language.
- have students say certain words or phrases that are repeated many times during the story.

RECOMMENDED CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS BOOKS



How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Dr. Seuss

¥1456

The bitter Grinch lives on top of a high mountain above the town of Whoville. He is jealous of all the happiness the townspeople enjoy during Christmas, so he decides to end it! What will become of this special day?

http://www.amazon.co.jp/gp/product/0394800796/sr=1-2/qid=1160704077/ref=sr_1_2/503-9727295-8154338?ie=UTF8&s=english-books



Frosty the Snowman

Jack Rollins & Steve Nelson

¥1100

This is the classic story about a snowman that comes to life when a magical top hat is placed on his head. It is originally from the favorite Christmas song.

http://www.amazon.co.jp/gp/product/0448431998/sr=8-1/qid=1160703727/ref=sr_1_1/503-9727295-8154338?ie=UTF8&s=english-books



Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Dennis R. Shealy

¥525

Rudolph was always teased because he was different. He had a special shiny red nose, but he wasn't happy. Then one day, Santa Claus and all the reindeer needed his help and his unique gift saved the day!

http://www.amazon.co.jp/gp/product/0375825304/sr=1-1/qid=1160703914/ref=sr_1_1/503-9727295-8154338?ie=UTF8&s=english-books



The Night Before Christmas

Clement C. Moore

¥525

The big day is coming as children await Santa Claus. The Christmas tree is decorated, Mom left some cookies for St. Nick and the chimney is waiting for him!

http://www.amazon.co.jp/gp/product/030796003X/sr=1-6/qid=1160704158/ref=sr_1_6/503-9727295-8154338?ie=UTF8&s=english-books



The Little Drummer Boy

Ezra Keats, Katherine K. Davis, Henry Onorati & Harry Simeone

¥1012

This is the touching story of a poor drummer boy who takes a journey to Bethlehem in order to present a gift to the newborn Jesus. All the boy can offer is playing his drum for the baby.

http://www.amazon.co.jp/gp/product/0689711581/sr=1-9/qid=1160704272/ref=sr_1_9/503-9727295-8154338?ie=UTF8&s=english-books



Santa Claus Is Coming to Town

Diane Wright Landolf

¥525

The story about Santa preparing to deliver gifts to all the children of the world. This story was originally released as a famous Christmas song and continues to be popular today.

http://www.amazon.co.jp/gp/product/0375829326/sr=1-8/qid=1160704690/ref=sr_1_8/503-9727295-8154338?ie=UTF8&s=english-books



The Polar Express

Chris Van Allsburg

¥1905

A boy who doesn't believe in Christmas anymore boards a magical train to the North Pole. Santa gives him a special present that can only be heard by those who still believe in the magic of Christmas.

http://www.amazon.co.jp/gp/product/0395389496/sr=1-2/qid=1160704952/ref=sr_1_2/503-9727295-8154338?ie=UTF8&s=english-books

CHRISTMAS SONG VIDEO AVAILABLE

Why not have children enjoy the music to some of the stories you tell in class? This provides a great atmosphere where your students can sing along while enjoying the story. We have a series of song videos containing Christmas songs available at a special classroom price. **The set of three videos is only ¥5,198 for Step World Schools.**



1. Jingle Bells [ジングルベル]
2. We Wish You a Merry Christmas [楽しいクリスマス]
3. Santa Claus is Comin' to Town [サンタが町にやってくる]
4. Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer [赤鼻のトナカイ]
5. Santa Claus Will Come Tonight
[サンタクロースが待ち遠しい]
6. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
[ママがサンタにキスをした]
7. Silent Night [きよしこの夜]

Please go to the LL Center website for more details: <http://www.llcenter.or.jp/creat/index.html>