

Oral Storytelling

Storytelling is an activity that has been practiced for thousands of years and is used in many different contexts. It is a tool that can be accessed by anyone, anytime, and anywhere. Grandparents tell stories to their grandchildren to teach them a lesson, parents tell stories to their children about growing up, and siblings tell stories to have fun and share information.

Storytelling is a family literacy activity that encompasses various components of learning. It is used to

- capture family history,
- create enriched experiences,
- share information and concepts,
- teach lessons or values,
- build relationships between the storyteller and the listener, and
- advance language development through vocabulary, grammar, and rhythm.

In First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures, storytelling is an integral component of everyday life and is used in many different ways. Stories are used to describe people, places, things and experiences, as an activity for amusement, to deliver messages or as a bridge to get a teaching across. There are stories that focus on teachings of culture, ceremony, spirituality, and ways of life. Some stories can be told with variation, while others are to remain the same. Across Saskatchewan Indigenous communities have distinguished protocols for storytelling which takes into account language, how the story is shared and why it is used. These traditional stories are a rich connection to Indigenous identity. (<http://sils.sk.ca/campusguides.com/SKLibraries/story>)



"Our stories, shared through oral tradition, ensure cultural continuity and define language, traditions and identity."

Hare, J. (2005). To "Know Papers": Aboriginal perspectives on literacy.



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