



# Storytelling skills for teachers and teaching assistants

Telling stories throughout the school is a successful way to **inspire and support children's learning**, as well as to increase their confidence and participation. It's great to use professional storytellers but most schools cannot afford regular visits. This popular course, developed and piloted by The Story Museum, provides a way of helping schools' own staff to deliver the magic and benefits of storytelling: for instance, training TAs has proved to be particularly **cost effective and sustainable**.

## Course aims

The six-day course runs over a school year and teaches the basics of storytelling performance. Teachers and TAs will be able to:

- excite and engage students throughout the primary cycle with their storytelling skills
- select and develop new stories as needed by the school curriculum
- demonstrate storytelling skills relevant for all year groups in the school
- visit other schools in the schools partnership as visiting storytellers
- act as storytelling coaches to other teachers in the school.



*OFSTED loved it! As a result of the course the children's story writing has improved, helping them structure their stories and giving them new vocabulary"*

*Karen Ashworth, St Botolph's PS*

## Course content

The course comprises six full days spread over the calendar year. Participants will acquire a repertoire of at least 20 stories, linked to the school curriculum, for foundation students through to year 6. They will also be taught a repertoire of story games and exercises. They will learn the basics of storytelling performance:

- how to prepare and perform a story
- development of character, setting and plot
- working with mood, voice, tone and timing
- how to tell various genres (from anecdote and folktale to legend and myth)
- basic story coaching skills

Between each training day students will be expected to prepare and perform at least 4 new stories to classes and school assemblies.

## Cost

£600 plus VAT. The course has a maximum of 20 participants.

## Dates

2011: Sept 27, Nov 8.

2012: Feb 21, Apr 10, June 12, July 10

## Location and booking

All courses take place at the future Story Museum, Rochester House, 42 Pembroke Street, Oxford OX1 1BP. Tel: 01865 790050; office@storymuseum.org.uk

[www.storymuseum.org.uk](http://www.storymuseum.org.uk)

## COURSE LEADER



Dr Chris Smith

Dr Chris Smith runs the Story Museum outreach programme. A storyteller and educator, he has been working for the past decade with storytelling schools, particularly in areas of social disadvantage. Chris trained in story performance with Ben Haggarty and in the use of story in education with Alida Gersie. You can hear Chris tell stories on the Story Museum website.



*Children love to hear and be part of stories. This course will give you the confidence and skills needed to become their storyteller.*

*Jim McMillan, Newcroft PS*

*Great for realising your potential.*  
*Sam Hewell, Disewater PS*

*An inspiring and confidence building course full of fun, laughter and stories galore.*  
*Danielle Kursa, Oxley PS*

## The Story Museum

The Story Museum exists to celebrate and highlight the importance of story, particularly for children. It aims to collect and present the stories each generation passes to its young and share 1001 enjoyable ways to learn.

Our outreach programme works with more than 10,000 children, parents and teachers each year, focussing on the most disadvantaged. In 2014 we plan to open a magical museum in Oxford presenting story in all its forms.

