

# Collaborative Summer Library Program

## Jean-Andrew Dickmann

- Professional Storyteller since 1983.
- background: **elementary school teacher** and then **children's librarian**
- **Northlands Storytelling Network** member since 1982; on the board for 14 yrs.
- current member of the **National Storytelling Network** since 1988.
- co-founder & current member of the **Milwaukee Area Story Tellers** (M.A.S.T.) guild which still meets monthly since 1985
- charter organizer for the annual **Wisconsin Storytellers' Get-together** (WISTGET) 1987
- spent a semester at Emerson College, England in the **International School of Storytelling** 1997.
- **taught graduate courses** in storytelling at Mount Mary University, Milwaukee, WI (12 yrs.) and several yrs. at Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI.
- has presented **workshops and classes** throughout her career to both children and adults on various aspects of storytelling.
- honored by WISTGET for her service to the storytelling in 1999.
- an Exchange Place Teller at the National Storytelling Festival
- has appeared at festivals and conferences throughout the mid-west.

- PUBLICATIONS
- Produced 3 storytelling audio tapes/CDs:
    - Twitter Tales
    - Storylore Sampler
    - Early Bird Stories
  - Produced a video on "Storytelling in Education".
  - Original Stories published:
    - "Folly Loppis" in *Storytelling World* - vol. 3 no.1
    - "The Coming of Eostre" in *CRICKET* magazine (March 2002)



Jean-Andrew of STORYLORE

414-962-4415

[jean-andrew@storylore.net](mailto:jean-andrew@storylore.net)

[www.storylore.net](http://www.storylore.net)

1160 E. Singer Circle #16, Milwaukee, WI 53212

# Storytelling Workshops for Librarians

1 -1½ hr. each?

Jean-Andrew

## Course Description:

This basic introduction to *oral* storytelling will help attendees, by example and participation, become familiar with the art of telling stories. We will explore the difference between telling and reading aloud, learn crafting techniques for relating a tale, and give voice to a narrative. Designed for beginners who wish to learn the skills that help to bring storytelling alive and those who have more questions about technique, selection, audience, programming and presentation.

## Course Objectives:

1. Discover the differences between oral reading & telling
2. Learn to quickly tell stories you already know
3. Explore story selection
4. Gain insights into crafting stories.
5. Play with ways to draw listeners into the tale.
6. Explore ways to involve listener participation.
7. Share presentation insights.
8. Critique works in progress.

## Teaching Methods:

Presentations, discussions, activities, student telling, critiquing, research, group learning.

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## OUTLINE

- I have included 2 versions for presenting Storytelling Basics.
  - The first could be extended over 2 sessions
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> (with tweaking) could be 6 sessions
- It is hard to create a workable course without knowing the time framework.  
(see below)

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Fees? Depends on time and travel.

Scheduling Information???

Willing to travel throughout State of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

Discounts negotiable.

# Finding Your Voice: Getting Started in Storytelling

Presented by Jean-Andrew

## Introductions

- Who's Who
- storytelling experience
- preferred tales to tell

## What is Storytelling?

- 3 elements
- memorizing
- innovation
- the more you tell...

## Why Tell?

- intimacy
- imagination
- beyond the head
- power of the tale

## Telling vs. Reading

- example
- feedback

## Learning a Story

- styles of telling
- styles of learning
- know our own style

## Basic Framework

- the body (plot)
- beginning
- ending
- structural pattern

## Activity

- capturing a personal experience
- animal encounter

## Learning to Tell

- Where to start
  - familiar and often read
  - short bits

## Basic principles

- no memorization –
- know the storyline –
- beginning and ending –
- trust your own style –

## Activity

- “Fabulous Fables”

## Kinds of Stories

- personal / factual
- folktale
- literary
- original

## Selection

- Guidelines (recognizing a good, tellable tale)
  - attraction – really like it
  - storyline – strong
  - characters – interesting, clear
  - language or images –
- Purpose
  - audience
  - theme

## Sources

- Folktales
- Literature \*
- Media\*
- E-mail
- Experience\*
- Imagination

## Sensitivity

- Credit the sources - \*\*\*
- Cultural Respect
  - beware of washed out, cartoony, stereotyped, representations
  - background research for authenticity

## Resources

- 398.2 – library call # for folktales
- books, tapes, news articles, etc.
- [www.storybug.net](http://www.storybug.net)
- storytelling organizations
- audio & live
- internet connections, etc.

## CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. Introduction and First Fables... er, Fables
  - Introductions
  - Presentation: "Something About Storytelling"
    - Basic Elements
    - Telling vs. Reading
    - Aspects
  - Activity: Telling a Fable
  - Follow-Up
    - Storytelling connections
    - Books and Tapes
    - Retell fable at least twice
    - Pick a story to tell and work on the storyline
  
2. True Stories: Learning to Craft Personal Tales
  - Tale Telling
  - Essential of Personal Stories
  - Activity: Taming the Animal's Tale
  - Beyond the Personal
  - Activity: True or False
  - Follow-Up
    - Recall and tell some personal stories (keep a record)
    - Think about the kind of stories you like to tell
    - Books and Tapes
  
3. Search & Selection: Finding the Right Story
  - Story Selection
    - Kinds of stories
    - Where to find them
    - Issues of ownership
    - Criteria for selection
  - Storytelling File
  - Discussion on Personal Style
  - Follow-up
    - begin a story file
    - bring at least 2 story resources that you found
    - fill out 2 selection worksheets
    - Select a story that you want to learn
    - Books and Tapes

#### 4. Various Versions: Learning to Adapt a Story

- Sharing Resources (story file and/or selection sheets)
- Activity: Storytelling Round
  - Preparation
  - Story–stick tellings
- Working with the Story
  - Elements of a story
  - Adapting the story
  - Cue cards
- Basic Crafting
- Respecting Other Cultures
- Follow-Up
  - Continue to select for story file
  - Apply some crafting ideas to your story, or to a new story
  - Come with a story to tell (same or new one)
  - Books and Tapes

#### 5. What a Character! (Bringing Them to Life)

- Sharings: practices of the week
- Personal Style
- Characterization
  - Understanding
  - Visualizing
  - Approaching
  - Developing
  - Placement
- Activity: Peopling the Castle
- Follow-up
  - M.A.S.T. – do come!
  - Prepare a story to tell
  - Books and Tapes

#### 6. Trusting the Next Word: You Can Tell It!

- Telling the Tales
- Activity: Exercises in Spontaneity
- Review and Evaluation
- Extras
- Follow-Up
  - Where do you go from here?
  - Keep on Telling!