Bio

The recipient of the National Storytelling Network’s 2017 Circle of Excellence Award, Motoko has enchanted audiences of every age across the U.S. since 1993, with her Asian folktales, Rakugo tales, ghost stories, mime vignettes, as well as oral memoirs from her childhood in Japan and her life as an immigrant in the U.S. She was featured on PBS’ *Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood* and Harcourt’s Media Literacy Video, and toured Miyazaki, Japan, as part of CarnegieKids-Miyazaki, sponsored by Carnegie Hall. Motoko has 20 years of experience as a workshop leader for adults. She has conducted workshops at various festivals such as Connecticut Storytelling Festival, Oklahoma City Storytelling Festival, and Timpanogos Storytelling Conference in Orem, Utah. Her story CDs won a Parents’ Choice Silver Honor Award, a Storytelling World Award, and a National Parenting Publications Award (NAPPA). She is the author of *A Year in Japan: Folktales, Songs and Art for the Classroom*.

Photos downloadable at <https://motoko.folktales.net/photos.html>

Workshop Description

Why tell stories? Because we care! Librarians are in a unique position to enhance children’s literacy skills and help build a safe environment for them through storytelling. Parents’ Choice Award winner Motoko will give step-by-step guidance to help you develop your storytelling skills. In 4-8 sessions, participants will learn: (1) How to choose and craft stories that befit the needs of your audience; (2) How to discover personal meanings in traditional tales; and (3) How to connect with audience in a relaxed, confident, and caring manner. They will also explore use of props (origami, kamishibai, masks and puppets), movement and music. Although Motoko vastly prefers face-to-face meetings, part of her workshop can be offered via webinar or Zoom. No previous experience necessary.

Website <https://motoko.folktales.net/index.html>  
Publications <https://motoko.folktales.net/book.html>  
Audio and Video Recordings <https://motoko.folktales.net/cds.html>

Fees and scheduling information:

-$500.00 for the first session, $250.00 for each subsequent session, plus travel and lodging  
-Willing to travel nationwide  
-Discounts are available when booked with performances, and for multiple-day engagements

Contact information

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