

WE TELL STORIES

Storytelling Workshops

MEET THE ARTIST:

We Tell Stories children's theatre company works to inspire creativity, enhance literacy, cultivate intercultural awareness and harmony, and spark a love for theatre and the spoken word. Since 1981, the multi-ethnic company has sought to nurture, educate and build harmony within young audiences through performances adapted from the literature, myths, legends and folk tales of all cultures and times.

We Tell Stories workshop artists are professional actors and storytellers who employ the We Tell Stories unique educational philosophy of creating a safe environment where children feel empowered to creatively express themselves.



ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

We Tell Stories workshop artists are professional teaching artists-actors and storytellers who use the We Tell Stories unique educational philosophy and strategies to teach both Language Arts and Theatre Content Standards. They create a safe environment where children feel empowered to uniquely express themselves. WTS workshop artists lead students in exercises that help increase communication skills, build self-confidence and encourage imaginative thinking. The goal is to produce a community of active, avid readers and learners through the magic of storytelling.

Through sequential instruction that includes basic improvisational theatre games and trust exercises, children learn story structure, explore themes, develop characters, experiment with staging and work as an ensemble.

Students engage in transforming a story into a play through individual or shared narration, and bring the story to life by playing characters from the story.

BEFORE THE WORKSHOP:

- Please have the students wear nametags for the workshop. It saves time if they are made beforehand!
- Teachers lead a discussion about the elements in a story: beginning, middle and ending, character, plot conflict, and resolution.
- Discuss how stories in a book differ from a play. How is storytelling different from acting out a play?
- Ask students to wear comfortable clothes that are easy to move in.

AFTER THE WORKSHOP:

- Continue playing trust-building games and exercises to strengthen ensemble work and values.
- Teachers continue Shared and Group Narration
- Students interview the 'Characters' from their stories
- Students act out the stories from the class reading materials.