

Chennai Storytelling Festival 2019

www.storytellinginstitute.org/CSF2019.html

Festival Director: Dr Eric Miller <eric@storytellinginstitute.org>

Storytelling Workshop, Thurs 7th Feb 2019, 10am-12:30pm

"Introduction to Storytelling"

Workshop Facilitator: Ms H.Banumathi <banumathy81@gmail.com>

Handout

What is a Story? -- A story is a series of events.

What is Storytelling? – Telling a series of event to one or many others.

Why is Storytelling important?

Instills virtues.

Helps to overcome inhibitions.

Makes one more aware of one's own culture and roots.

Enhances verbal proficiency.

Improves listening skills.

Encourages creativity and imagination power.

Improves memory.

Broadens horizon.

Makes academic learning easier.

Better communication.

Helps one face difficult situations.

Two aspects of Storytelling work are

1) Analysing, shaping, and creating stories.

2) Developing Performance Skills. Storytelling is a form of Public Speaking involving Acting.

Preparing to tell a Story

Story Selection

Types of Stories include:

Folktales (Fables, Fairytales, etc).

Legends. Epics.

Autobiography (personal experiences).

Stories one creates.

Story Structure

Beginning. Middle. End.

Stories involve Situations.

Stories may contain Conflicts/Problems and Solutions.

Twelve Elements of Story

1) The Title of the story.

2) Characters (their histories, thoughts, decisions, follow-through on decisions, actions, etc).

3) Characters' Ways of speaking.

4) Characters' Ways of moving.

5) Place.

6) Time (continuous, or jumps, flashbacks?).

7) The Storyline (also known as, plot) -- in one or two sentences.

8) Objects in the story.

9) Sensory Elements in the story: Smells, Flavours, Colours, Textures, etc.

10) Emotions in the story (for the characters, the teller, and the listeners).

11) Who is Narrating the story? What is his/her Point of View, Tone of Voice, Attitude, Style?

12) Point (Theme, Meaning, Moral, Message, Lesson, Take-away).

Ways of developing stories include

- 1) Imagine a story. 2) Write it. 3) Draw it. 4) Tell it (as narrator, and as characters).
- 5) Physically enact it. 6) Sing it. 7) A team could perform it.

Practice telling the story.

Effective stories might have

- Hook.
- Humor.
- Suspense.
- A variety of emotions.
- An impact upon closure.

Performance**A Storytelling Performance Process**

- 1) Visualise.
- 2) Describe.
- 3) Mime (relating to imaginary objects, etc).
- 4) Become characters.

Voice Modulation for the Characters

- Monotone / Intonation - Narration / Dialogue.
- Pitch: High, Medium, Low.
- Tone: Expression of the Character.
- Volume and Rate.
- Sound Effects.
- Pauses, Silences.
- Song, Rephrase or Repetition.

Body Language of the Characters

- Posture & Gesture
- Stage spacing
- Eye contact
- Expression

After Telling a Story

One might ask "**Open Questions**" (questions with no right or wrong answers), such as,

- 1) What is one specific thing you liked about the story, or about the way it was told?
 - 2) What is one thing you found unsatisfying about the story, or about the way it was told?
- Might you like to add to the story, or change it in any other way?
- 3) Might the story remind you of any personal experience, or of some other story?
 - 4) Does the story seem to teach any lessons?

Resources

- www.storytellinginstitute.org/87.html
- www.aesopfables.com
- www.storyarts.org
- www.worldoftales.com