

## Storytelling Skills

Storytelling involves relating a tale to an audience through voice and gesture. Storytellers use a wide range of skills to tell a story well.

1. Storytellers know their stories well.
2. Storytellers organise their stories well.
  - The characters are developed with thoughts, feelings and actions.
  - The setting is described by appealing to the five senses.
  - Dialogue is used to give voice to the characters and to move the story forward.
  - The events in the plot are well structured (rising action, climax, falling action).
  - The problems that the characters faced are resolved in the end.
3. Storytellers use vocal expression to bring their stories to life.
  - They speak clearly and are easy to understand.
  - They vary the pace, pitch and volume of their voice and use pausing for dramatic effect.
  - They use different voices for their characters.
4. Storytellers use facial expression and body language.
  - They appear comfortable, relaxed and confident in front of their audience.
  - They use facial expressions that match the mood of the story.
  - They use gestures that complement the story.
5. Storytellers are creative and entertain their audience.
  - They engage the audience by making eye contact, asking questions, telling jokes, etc.
  - They use special actions or small props to make the story more entertaining.
  - They get a good response from the audience.

Websites on Storytelling

<http://www.storyarts.org/>

<http://www.callofstory.org/index.html>

<http://www.eldrbarry.net/roos/art.htm>