



What Makes a Good Story?

Name _____

Date _____

When choosing a story to prepare for storytelling, consider the following:

1. Is the story short enough?

Ideally your story should be under 5 minutes. If your story is longer than that, you may start to lose the interest of your audience. It takes a skilled storyteller to hold attention for long stories. Also, since it takes a lot longer to tell a story than to read it, be sure to time your story when you practice it.

2. Do you like this story?

Is it interesting, funny, or scary to you? Chances are, if you find it interesting, you can make it fun and exciting for your audience, too.

3. Does it have a simple plot?

It is easy to lose your place in your storytelling if the story is not simple to follow. Your audience might get confused too.

4. Does this story have colorful characters with unique characteristics that distinguish them from each other?

Too many characters or similar characters will confuse your audience! Make sure to clearly define your characters within the story.

5. Is there action and suspense that will keep your listeners wanting more?

Will your audience want to know what happens next? Examine your plot to make sure it is interesting and entertaining.

6. Is the introduction interesting?

Keep your introduction short and intriguing! Use inflection and tone to build excitement for the coming story.

7. Does the wording of the story create visual images for the listener?

Use adjectives and adverbs to draw interest to your story.

8. Does your story suit the audience you're going to tell it to?

What do they want to hear? Are you telling your story to 4-year-olds, or 14-year-olds? Gear your story to the age and interests of your audience.