

## Leaving the Book Behind – Jumping into Storytelling

Pick a story with repetition that you know fairly well (Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Three Billy Goats Gruff, Three Little Pigs, Three Wishes)

Without looking at a book, jot down:

- The characters
  - The setting
  - How the story begins
  - The sequence of events
  - The climax
  - How the story ends
- Next, using only the notes you just made, tell the story to yourself.

Now go to the book. Find one or two versions of the story and read them. Think about the words and the phrases that make the story come alive to you.

- Now retell the story to yourself using some of the colorful language. Refer to your notes if needed.

Think next about actions you might incorporate. Think of gestures you might use, and actions you might encourage the audience to join you in.

- Retell the story to yourself using actions as well as words. Try not to look at notes.

Last, think about how you might change your voice to delineate different characters. Try out various inflections, accents, and pitches. See what satisfies you and makes the character more real to you.

- Retell the story using colorful language, actions, and at least one other voice. No notes!( Million dollar tip: if you're telling a story and you lose track of what happens next, say to your audience, "And what do you think happened then?" While they're coming up with guesses, you have a few moments to remember!)

Now, try it on an audience. Make eye contact, use gestures and voices, and above all, enjoy yourself! Guess what - you're a storyteller!

## Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Characters: Papa Bear, Mama Bear, Baby Bear, Goldilocks

Setting: the woods, the Bears' house

Beginning: Once upon a time, there lived three bears: a papa bear, a mama bear, and baby bear.

### Sequence of events:

Mama makes porridge. It is too hot to eat, so bears decide to go for walk.

While bears are out, Goldilocks enters their house.

Tries three bowls of porridge. Big - too hot. Medium – too cold. Little – just right.

Tries three chairs. Big – too hard. Medium- too soft. Little – just right. Breaks little chair.

Tries three beds. Big – too high at the head. Medium- too high at the foot. Little – just right. Falls asleep.

Bears return.

Notice: “Someone’s been eating my porridge.” (Papa and Mama).  
“Someone’s been eating my porridge, and they ate it all up!” (Baby)

Notice: “Someone’s been sitting in my chair.” (Papa and Mama).  
“Someone’s been sitting in my chair, and they broke it!” (Baby)

Notice: “Someone’s been sleeping in my bed.” (Papa and Mama).  
“Someone’s been sleeping in my bed – and she’s still here!” (Baby)

Climax: Goldilocks wakes up and sees three bears. Jumps out of bed and runs out of house and away.

Ending: And she never, ever returned.

Workshop:

Share handout and technique

Ask for characters, setting, beginning, sequence of events, climax, ending – have on handout written out

Ask for people to try telling part of the story - pass the story around the table