
Great Lakes Regional Advisory Lodge



Help Papers Series
Support Materials for Parent/Child Programs

TOPIC:

Story Telling

Story Telling, Old As Time

"Scunny Wundy", is the Seneca Indian word for storyteller and myth sayer for their Nations. You too could be a "Scunny Wundy"! The winter longhouse was the place and time for the story telling of the Central Plains and Northern Plains Indians. In her book "The Winter Longhouse", Hettie Jones , author, explains the mystique of this time, and it's importance to the history of the American Indian. If only you read the preface of her book, you will be enlightened.

Stories we hope to talk about fall into the categories of Legends and Myths, and my favorites, the Trickery and Origin stories. "Why Daddy?" the children would ask! "Do you really know the answer?" *If not, then you must search the many winds of yesterdays!*

At the end of this paper, you will find a Bibliography of choice readings. These stories are easy to put to memory as well as illustration for effectiveness. If any of these are not in your Library system, simply remind the head librarian that they all participate in a network nationally for book exchange. All of these are in the Columbus, Ohio Metropolitan Library.

All libraries use the Dewey Decimal System for logging books. Go to the children's section and find the 398.0 area. That is where all books of this nature are, including Native American Legends and Myths. This is a gold mine of fun reading.

Don't forget the many ceremonies and campfires that these can add so much fun to. Fit them in as many as you can.

The following is a segment from the book, "Homespun Tales From America's Favorite Storytellers", edited by Jimmy Neil Smith. The segment details the steps to becoming a great storyteller.

- Discover the right story to tell---A story you love and believe in.
 - Find a story at your local library.
 - Collect a story from your family and community heritage.
 - Create a story from the world around you.
- Learn the story in a way that works best for you.
- Change and adapt the story to fit yourself, your needs, and the needs of your listeners
 - Not possible for the Native Peoples as these stories were the only history records they had to pass on as they came before the practice of recording started.
- Use your natural voice.
- Use sound effects naturally, and cautiously.
- Be brave enough to be silent at the right moment, as it is great for effect and drama.
- Use gestures succinctly, simply, and naturally.
- Polish your telling skills by practicing----telling your story again and again.
- Choose the right story to tell, one compatible with your listeners ages, educational levels, and background.

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- Prepare a proper place for stories to be told.
 - See that the location is comfortable and intimate.
 - Provide effective lighting and acoustics.
 - Assure quiet, protection, and freedom from interruptions.
- Develop a direct, one-on-one contact with your listeners.
 - Tell your story into your listeners eyes.
 - Introduce your story.
 - Involve your listeners in your story and its telling.
- Expand your opportunities to learn more about storytelling.
 - Read and study "How-to Books" and materials.
 - Listen to other seasoned story-tellers tell stories.
 - Enroll in a class, workshop, or residency.

But most important of all, tell stories whenever and wherever you can!

Story telling and teaching the ways of the North American Indian, do go hand in hand. However, always remember the great words of one of the great storytellers of our modern times, Walt Disney:

"I would rather entertain and hope they would learn, then to teach, and hope they were entertained!"

"May the wisdom of the Four Winds be with you in all your ventures!"

"Ton-Ka-Hay, Great One! Ton-Ka-Hay!"

This material was gathered by Dave "Buckeye" Garberson, Great Lakes Elder, former National Chief, and self professed Skunny Wundy.

The recommended reading for Native American Legends short stories that follows, is purely that of Dave "Buckeye" Garberson. He has read all of these and feels they are good representations of books and materials that are proper for parent/child programs, especially Native Sons and Daughters Programs™.

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RECOMMENDED READING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN LEGEND SHORT STORIES:

- Twenty Tee Pee Tails
See Great Lakes Regional Advisory Lodge for availability.
- Tales Of Running Deer
See Great Lakes Regional Advisory Lodge for availability.
- Rituals and Ceremonies---Published by the Great Lakes Regional Advisory Lodge.
As donated from various sources throughout the Great Lakes Region.

- Skunny Wundy-Seneca Indian Tales---Arthur C. Parker
- The legend Of Bluebonnet---Tomie De Paola
- Tonwewa And The Eagles And Other Lakota Indian Tales--Rosebud Yellow Robe
- Kwi-Na The Eagle and Other Indian Tales--M.A. Jagendorj
- The Star Husband---June Mobley
- The Star Maiden---Barbara J. Esbensen
- American Indian Prose and Poetry---Gloria B. Levitas
- Legends Of The Great Chiefs---Emerson N. Compton
- The Fire Stealer---William Toye
- Southern Indians Myths And Legends---Virginia Brown and Laura Owens
- American Indian Mythology---Alice Marriott and Carol Raachlin
- The Legend Of The Indian Paintbrush---Tomie De Paola
- Longhouse Winter---Hettie Jones
- The Fireside Book Of Native American Folktales---Allan A. MacFarlan
- Ohio Legends---Josephine B. Tholl (Ohio Federation Of Woman's Clubs)
- Longhouse Legends---Emerson N. Matson
- Indian Legends Of the Pacific Northwest---Ella E. Clark
- Winter Telling Stories---Alice Marriott
- Star Tales, North American Indian Stories About The Stars--Gretchen Will Mayo
- The Winter Wife---Anne Elliot Crompton
- The Rainbow Crow---Nancy Van Laan
- Star Boy---Paul Goble (Look up him by author as many great books by him)
- Nine Tales Of Coyote---Fran Martin
- The Keepers Of The Earth---also The Keepers of The Stars.

I have also found many good books by looking at garage sales and used book stores. These are mostly "No longer published" books, and are rare finds for your own library.