

## STORYTELLING: ONCE UPON A TIME

Storytelling is the first profession, and is always looking for new recruits. Everybody has a story to carry, everyone has a story they can tell. Learning how to tell, learning the elements of story, and learning to capture an audience is not that hard.

If you'd like to practice stories from the "public domain", meaning they belong to us all, you might start with Grimm's Fairy Tales and work toward Greek mythology and Norse tales. If you learn better from tapes than books, I highly recommend the story tapes by Jim Weiss and Joe Hayes, who is New Mexico's favorite storyteller. Additionally, you might want to practice telling stories to kids in a daycare center, a library setting or even just in the neighborhood. Most kids think of TV as a storyteller, and don't realize it is NOT: it's there to sell you stuff you don't need. Even the kids' movies nowadays are there to sell stuff before they tell the "true and authentic" story (Hercules being a case in point).

There are tens of thousands of stories out there, waiting for you to claim one of them to carry around in your heart, to tell anytime, anyplace, anyway. Finding it may be as simple as waiting for the book to fall off the bookstore shelf onto your foot, or it may be as difficult as having to write the story yourself. The important thing

is to tell the story. Just do it, as the ad says. Here are some titles you might find helpful toward that end.

*Tell Me a Tale: A Book about Storytelling* by Joseph Bruchac (including 14 stories from around the world), Harcourt Brace, \$16

*The Healing Art of Storytelling: A Sacred Journey of Personal Discovery* by Richard Stone, Hyperion, \$12.95

*Storytelling: Imagination and Faith* by William Bausch, Twenty-Third Publications, \$7.95

*Storytelling: Process and Practice*, by Norma Livo, Libraries Unlimited

*Tell Me a Story* by Chase Collins, Houghton Mifflin, \$8.95 pa.

*The Plug In Drug*, Marie Winn, Penguin Publishing, \$9.95

*The Way of the Storyteller*, Ruth Sawyer, Viking Press, \$9.95

*Storytelling, Imagination and Faith*, William J Bausch, Twenty-Third Publications, \$7.95

*Women Who Run With the Wolves*, Clarissa Pinkola Estes, Simon and Schuster, \$25

*Parabola, the Magazine of Myth and Tradition*, 656 Broadway, NY NY 10012, \$20/year

*The Power of Myth series*, Joseph Campbell, preferably in video from Mystic Fire Video, PO Box 9323, South Burlington, VT 05403, 1-800-727-8433. This is also available in book form, and on video from PBS.

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