

# **Literacy through Story in the Primary Division: An Oral Language Development Unit for Remote Learning**

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**and**

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## Storytelling for Primary Children

**Unit Description:** This six module unit provides videos and creative activities for primary aged children (Kdg-Gr. 3 or ages 4-9). Each module is designed to foster a child's engagement with and expression of stories. In this unit the children will retell, create, find, and explore many different kinds of stories while reinforcing a variety of different skills.

**Unit Goals:**

The child will develop:

- sequencing skills
- left to right directionality
- long term memory
- vocabulary
- self expression (e.g., gesture, facial expression, and vocal expression)
- and, specific concepts (tangram shapes and division)

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### Unit Overview

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[Click here to access Module 6 PDF](#)

***\*Note to Educators:** All appendices and additional resources required are embedded in the linked documents listed above. You must click (file..) "Download as PDF" in order to share documents with students. Please make a copy before use to avoid reconfiguration of materials.*

### **Notice of Intellectual Property**

The educational materials developed for this unit, including, but not limited to, the videos and activities are the intellectual property of Dr. Cathy Miyata. This unit was designed for teachers to use with their junior level students, particularly during this unprecedented era of physical distancing. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination and/or communication outside of this given this purpose. Posting or providing unauthorized dissemination of audio, video, or written content to third-party websites or for the purpose of personal gain is prohibited. These acts violate the designer's intellectual property rights, and the Canadian Copyright Act.

# MODULE 1: STORYTELLING ON A CLOTHESLINE

## Activity One: Telling a Ukrainian Folktale

1. Watch the video of the story The Mitten.
2. Watch the story again and try telling the story along with Sarah.
3. Print off the pictures provided (below) and colour them or create your own animal pictures to colour.
4. Find a long string and some clothes pins or tape. Make a clothesline to hang your pictures on (like Sarah did). You could tie the ends of your string onto the back of two chairs. If you cannot find a string, then line up the pictures on the floor. Tell the story The Mitten to someone in your family.

You can access the link for The Mitten cutouts [here](#).



## Activity Two: Telling a Canadian Story

1. Watch the video of the story Red Is Best
2. Watch the story again and try to tell it along with Cathy.
3. What is your favourite colour? Make your own favourite colour story like the Red Is Best story. Draw some of your favourite things like a hat or shoes or a toy using your favourite colour.
4. Find a long string and some clothes pins or tape. Make a clothesline to hang your pictures on. If you cannot find a string, then line up the pictures on the floor. Tell your own colour story to someone in your family.

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VIDEO: THE MITTEN CLOTHESLINE STORY



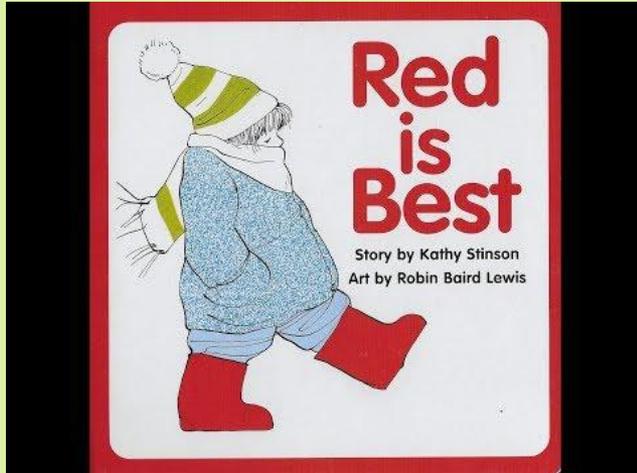
VIDEO: RED IS BEST CLOTHESLINE STORY

# MODULE 1: STORYTELLING ON A CLOTHESLINE

## MASTER STORYTELLER CHALLENGE!

## ACTIVITY THREE: TELLING A YIDDISH FOLKTALE

Watch the reading of the book, "Red is Best."



VIDEO: READING OF RED IS BEST



VIDEO: JOSEPH'S OVERCOAT

Can you identify the differences between this version of the story and Cathy's storytelling version of the story?

Which items would you have included that Cathy left out?

**Retell** Red Is Best using the items you think should have been included.

Can you use facial expression and gestures to express the story well?

Ask someone in your family to record your storytelling so you can watch yourself as a storyteller and share your story with family and friends.

1. Watch the video of the story Joseph's Overcoat
2. Watch the story again and try to tell it along with Cathy.
3. Create your own version of the story. For example, you do not have to start with a jacket, start with another piece of clothing. Using material or paper, cut out the things Joseph made. Also make "old" cards for your story.
4. Collect a string and some clothes pins. Set up your storytelling area.
5. Tell your new story to your family or on Zoom to close friends or relatives.

# MODULE 2: STORYTELLING USING PROPS

## ACTIVITY TWO: TELLING A STORY USING PROPS

### ACTIVITY ONE: TELLING A STORY USING CLOTHING

VIDEO: THE LITTLE OLD LADY WHO WAS NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING



1. Watch the video of The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything
2. Watch the story again and try to tell it along with Cathy.
3. Collect items from around the house and use them to create your own story of what followed the old lady through the woods
4. Tell your story to family or close friends.

VIDEO: SOME THINGS ARE SCARY (SILLY SCARY)



1. Watch the video of the story Some Things are Scary
2. Watch the story again and try to tell it along with Cathy.
3. Collect things around the house that might be scary to someone. Use the items to tell your own version of a scary things story.

### MASTER STORYTELLER CHALLENGE!

VIDEO: READING OF SOME THINGS ARE SCARY



1. Watch the reading of the book Some Things are Scary
2. Identify four things in the book that you thought were sort of funny and write them down.
3. Ask people you know what they are afraid of and write down four more things that you find sort of funny.
4. Create your own storytelling version of Some Things are Scary using only things that are funny.



# MODULE 3: STORYTELLING USING PUPPETS

## ACTIVITY ONE: TELLING A STORY USING STICK PUPPETS



### VIDEO: I KNOW AN OLD WOMAN WHO SWALLOWED A FLY

1. Watch the video of the story I Know an Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly.
2. Watch the story again and try to tell it along with Sarah.
3. Use the cut outs provided in this [link](#) or make your own cut outs for the characters in the story. Colour the cut outs and glue them onto a stick as suggested in the video. Retell the story using your puppets.

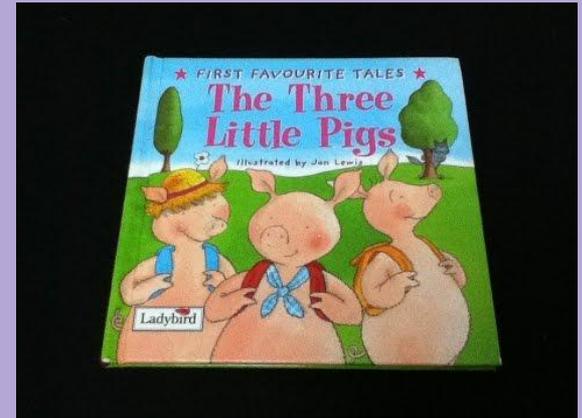
## ACTIVITY TWO: TELLING A STORY USING FINGER PUPPETS



### VIDEO: THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

1. Watch the video of the story The Three Little Pigs
2. Watch the story again and try to tell it along with Cathy.
3. Create your own finger puppets of the three pigs and the wolf. Use them to tell your own version of the story.

## MASTER STORYTELLER CHALLENGE!



### VIDEO: READING OF THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

Watch the reading of the book The Three Little Pigs.

There is a part in this story where one of the pigs trick the wolf that was not included in Cathy's storytelling.

Can you find it? Create two new parts to the story where the pigs trick the wolf in funny ways.

Retell your new version of The Three Little Pigs.

# MODULE 4: TELLING STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

## ACTIVITY ONE: TELLING A FABLE FROM GREECE



### VIDEO: THE CROW AND THE PEACOCK

Think about the beginning of the story. How did it start? Who was in the story? What happened next? How did the story end?

2. Create a map of the story. You can use words or pictures in your map. The map should show the important parts of the story.
3. When you are finished your map, use it to help you retell the story out loud.



## MASTER STORYTELLER CHALLENGE

If you liked the fable The Crow and the Peacock, follow this [link](#) to read more fables.

Pick one you really like. Create a map of the story to help you remember it. Tell it aloud to your family or close friends.

## ACTIVITY TWO: TELLING A FOLKTALE FROM THAILAND



### VIDEO: FREEDOM BIRD

1. Watch the video of the story Freedom Bird. Think about the beginning of the story. How did it start? Who was in the story? What happened next? How did the story end?

2. Create a map of the story. You can use words or pictures in your map. The map should show the important parts of the story.

3. When you are finished your map, use it to help you retell the story out loud. Make sure your voice gets louder and louder every time the bird sings! Invite your audience to join in when you make the sound of the bird.

## ACTIVITY THREE: TELLING A FOLKTALE FROM YOUR CULTURE

1. Ask a family member to tell you a story that is special to your culture or your family heritage. Can you retell their story using a clothesline, or props or puppets?
2. Ask your family to help to contact people from your cultural or religious community or close family or friends over Skype or Zoom. Ask these people to tell you a story that is special to your culture or family heritage. Can you retell their story using a clothesline, or props or puppets?
3. Can you add facial expressions, gestures, and change your voice to make the story sound very dramatic? Give it a try!
4. Ask someone in your family to record you telling your special story from your culture.

# MODULE 5: SHARING PERSONAL STORIES

## ACTIVITY ONE: TELLING "SCAR" STORIES



### VIDEO: CATHY'S SCAR STORY

1. Watch the video of the story of Cathy's scar.
2. Do you have a scar? Tell the story of how you got your scar. Who was with you? Where were you? What happened?
3. Ask someone else to tell their scar story to you. Can you retell their scar story?

## ACTIVITY TWO: TELLING SPECIAL EVENT STORIES



### VIDEO: CATHY'S BEST PRESENT EVER STORY

1. Watch the video of the story of Cathy's Best Present Ever.
2. Do you remember getting a special present? Tell the story of getting that special present. Tell why it was special. If you can't think of a gift, do you remember a special day? It could have been a birthday, a celebration, a family event, a trip, game, recital, or someone special coming over.

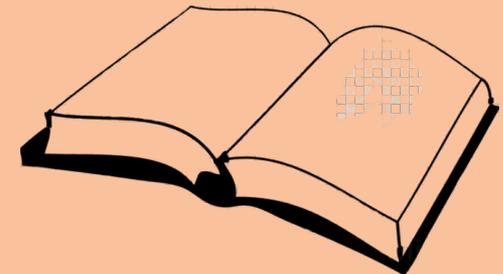
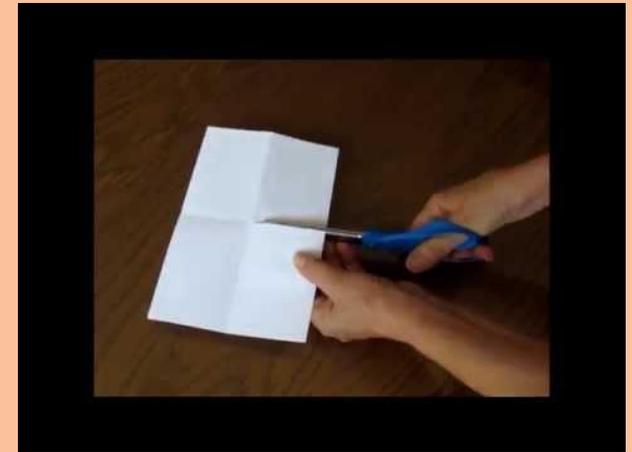
Tell the story of that special day. Who was with you?  
Where were you? What happened?

3. Ask someone else to tell their special story to you too.

## MASTER STORYTELLER CHALLENGE!

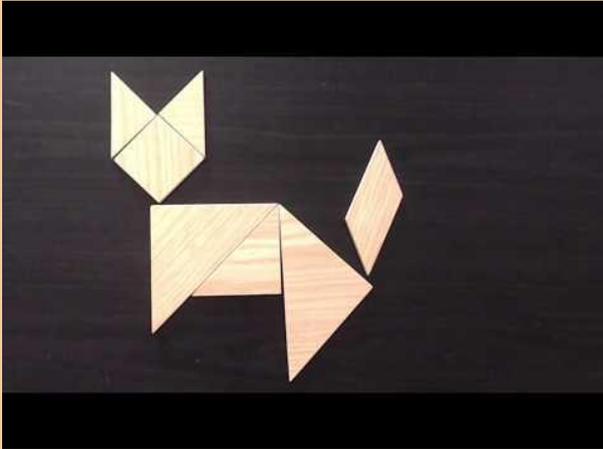
Ask several people you know to tell you their scar stories or special event stories.

Create a book to record the stories in! Here is a tutorial:



# MODULE 6: MATHEMATICAL STORIES

## ACTIVITY ONE: TELLING A TANGRAM STORY



VIDEO: COYOTE AND BEAR

1. Watch the video of the story
2. Watch the story again and try to tell it along with Sarah.
3. Use the pattern to make your own tangram shapes. Use the shapes to tell the story to someone else.
4. Create your own animal shapes and make up your own tangram story.

Here is a [link](#) that includes a copy of the tangram pattern.

## ACTIVITY TWO: TELLING A DIVISION STORY



VIDEO: SHARE THE COOKIES

1. Watch the video of the story Share the Cookies
2. Watch the story again and try to tell it along with Sarah.
3. Collect some items around the house that you can share and tell your own sharing story.

Here is the [link](#) to print your own cookie cut-outs!

## MASTER STORYTELLER CHALLENGE!

Pick a math concept you like. For example you could select fractions, addition, subtraction, or 3-D shapes.

Create a story that uses your concept. Your story must have characters and a beginning, a middle, and an ending.

You could use a clothesline, puppets, or props to help you tell it.

Tell your story to your family or to close friends or your teacher through Zoom.



## Don't Forget Your Certificate!



Click this [link](#) to see your certificate for becoming a storyteller! Great job!