

**STORYTELLING METHOD IN TEACHING ENGLISH(FOR
LEARNERS)**

Idiyeva Lola Ismatovna

The assistant of Asia International University

Jalilova Sevinch Jamshidovna

The student of Asia International University Storytelling Method in Teaching
English

Abstract : The storytelling method is an effective approach to teaching English, especially to young learners. This paper explores the impact of storytelling on developing intercultural understanding and communication skills. It also examines the benefits of using storytelling in the classroom, including its effects on well-being, communication, participation, and imagination. The paper concludes with performance techniques to enhance the storytelling experience.

Key words: Storytelling , participation , enhancing ,benefits , impact , understanding , students , culture ,performance

Introduction : Children have an innate love of stories. Stories create magic and a sense of wonder about the world, teaching us about life, ourselves, and others. Storytelling is a unique way for students to develop an understanding, respect, and appreciation for other cultures, promoting a positive attitude towards people from different lands, races, and religions.

Storytelling and Intercultural Understanding

Storytelling can enhance intercultural understanding and communication in various ways. Through stories, children can explore their cultural roots and experience diverse cultures. Stories enable children to empathize with unfamiliar people, places, and situations, offering insights into different traditions and values. They help children understand how wisdom is common to all cultures and offer insights into universal life experiences, allowing them to consider new ideas and revealing both differences and commonalities among cultures worldwide.

Benefits of Using Storytelling in the Classroom

Promotes Well-Being and Relaxation while they are learning .Listening to stories can promote a sense of well-being and relaxation among students. The comforting rhythm and predictable structure of stories can help create a calming

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classroom environment, reducing anxiety and promoting a positive learning atmosphere. Increases Willingness to Communicate. Stories increase children's willingness to communicate their thoughts and feelings. The narrative context provides a safe and engaging way for students to express themselves, fostering open communication and emotional expression.

Encourages Active Participation

Storytelling encourages active participation. Students become actively engaged as they listen, predict, and respond to the unfolding narrative. This active involvement helps reinforce language skills and fosters a sense of ownership over the learning process. Increases Verbal Proficiency. Through storytelling, children increase their verbal proficiency. They encounter new vocabulary and complex sentence structures within meaningful contexts, aiding in language acquisition and retention. Repetition and variation in stories also reinforce language patterns and usage.

Encourages Imagination and Creativity

Storytelling encourages the use of imagination and creativity. Children visualize characters and settings, think about alternative story endings, and create their own stories. This imaginative engagement is crucial for cognitive and language development. Encourages Cooperation in learning. Storytelling encourages cooperation between students. Group storytelling activities, such as creating a story together or acting out a narrative, promote teamwork and collaborative skills. These activities also build a sense of community within the classroom.

Enhances Listening Skills and Commonalities of Cultures Around the World

Listening to stories enhances listening skills. Students learn to pay attention, follow the plot, and understand the sequence of events. These listening skills are foundational for overall language development and comprehension.

Stories reveal universal truths about the world. Through stories, we see how different people share the same life experiences and how human nature transcends culture. These commonalities help students appreciate the shared human experience, fostering empathy and global awareness.

Performance Techniques

Telling a story can captivate an audience with the right techniques and a little practice. Effective storytelling involves remembering and retelling the plot, using performance skills to enhance the narrative, and engaging the audience.

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Remembering and Retelling the Plot

Mapping the plot as a memory technique helps in organizing the story's sequence. Using story skeletons to remember key events and thinking of the plot as a film or a series of connected images can aid in retention. Telling the story in one's own words and creating a personal version of the story through adaptation and improvisation makes it more relatable and engaging. Retelling the story numerous times until it feels natural is essential for fluency and confidence.

Performance Skills

Effective storytelling requires varying the volume, pitch, and tempo of one's voice, enunciating clearly, and exaggerating expressions to convey emotions and actions vividly. Using the face, body, and gestures to let the body speak adds a dynamic element to the storytelling. Maintaining a clear focus and concentration, engaging eye contact with the audience, and creating a charismatic presence makes the audience believe in the story and the storyteller.

Using different, exaggerated character voices for various characters adds depth to the narrative. Being dynamic and using the space effectively keeps the audience engaged. Pacing oneself ensures that the story unfolds naturally and retains the audience's interest. Using silence and pauses strategically adds dramatic effect and emphasizes key moments in the story. Always regaining one's style as a narrator helps maintain the flow and coherence of the narrative.

Conclusion :Young learners bring a remarkable variety of personal experiences, values, and ways of understanding to the classroom. The language they learn in the classroom shapes their thoughts and feelings, extending beyond mere information exchange. Stories link the classroom with the home and the broader world, providing a common thread that unites cultures and bridges cultural gaps. Storytelling is not just an instructional tool but a means of reaching out and connecting with others, fostering intercultural understanding, communication, and global awareness.

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