

# Storytelling Guidelines

## Suggestions for Selecting and Preparing Youth Storytellers

1. **Decide** what storytelling activities your school will use to teach and promote storytelling throughout the year.
2. **Help** students select and learn to tell appropriate stories.
3. **Before** the DSD Storytelling Festival
  - Students should have the opportunity to practice and present their stories at their schools.
  - Schools may hold a mini-storytelling festival
  - Choose a judging panel (teachers, librarian, parent, student, etc.) to determine their school's Youth Storytellers who will participate at the DSD Storytelling Festival.
  - Continue with storytelling activities throughout the year.

## Requirements for Preparing Youth Storytellers

4. **Emphasize** the art of pure storytelling and less on costumes and props.
  - Select stories or tales that are unique or not as familiar as fairytales.
  - Recitation of poems is not storytelling.
  - Stories may be original student work or a retold story.
  - Folktales, historical stories, or personal experience work best.
5. Stories told in other **languages** should be considered but used appropriately. Folktales from around the world or various cultures are wonderful options for storytelling.
6. The **retelling** of a story from children's literature should reference the author or source.
  - When students perform a story retelling, they will give the title, author, and state that the story is being retold in their own words.

## The Davis School District Storytelling Festival

7. Each participating school:
  - May select up to two Youth Storytellers to perform.
  - At the festival, student stories and performance will be scored by a panel of judges.
  - Selected Youth Storytellers will represent the DSD at the Weber State University Storytelling festival.
  - It is the responsibility of the school (coaches, teachers, parents, etc.) to help student(s) select and prepare a story for the festival.