

The Anne Izard Storytellers' Choice Award – APPLIED STORYTELLING

1992 - 2019.

This award was established to honor Anne Izard, the noted librarian, storyteller and Children's Services Consultant in Westchester County (NY) who died in 1990.

It is hoped the award will highlight and promote distinguished titles published in the field of storytelling and in doing so, bring the many riches of storytelling itself to a much greater public recognition.

Please note: award year noted in parenthesis at the end of annotation.

Baum, Noa. *A Land Twice Promised: An Israeli Woman's Quest for Peace*. Familius, 2016. Stories can mirror and thereby reinforce historical passions of hatred. Stories by "the enemy" can shatter such mirrors, becoming windows to peer through, doors to open, or even bridges to cross into understanding, compassion, and acceptance of those labeled "other". Storyteller Noa Baum charts her journey through the stories she was raised with; stories exchanged with Jumana, an articulate and passionate Palestinian woman; and finally the evolution of the story recounting their revolutionary odyssey. Riveting! Extensive notes and resources include a transcript of Baum's performance piece. (2017)

Birch, Carol L. and Melissa A. Heckler. *Who Says: Essays on Pivotal Issues in Contemporary Storytelling*. August House, 1996. Ten essays by anthropologists, writers, folklorists, musicians, teachers, and librarians, many of whom are distinguished storytellers. This collection examines diverse models of storytelling and provides an expanded language for discussion of storytelling aesthetics and ethics. Like a banquet with a variety of rich foods and provocative guests, this book demands that the reader bring his intellect to the party and join in the dialogue and contemplation. (1998)

Birch, Carol L. *The Whole Story Handbook: Using Imagery to Complete the Story Experience*. August House. 2000. With generous guidance and support from Birch, an internationally known and beloved storyteller, beginners and even expert tellers can expand and hone their art form. In these pages we discover how to become passionately engaged in our own stories, not only with the full use of our senses, but with our attitudes, strengths and even weaknesses. Readers are also invited to explore the critical differences between storytelling, acting and media reporting. Although its main focus is storytelling, the wisdom in this brief book can well be applied to living creatively and with conviction. (2002)

Chace, Karen. *Story By Story: Creating a Student Storytelling Troupe & Making the Common Core Exciting*. Parkhurst Brothers Publishers, 2014. An easy-to-follow guide leads you from organizing a storytelling club to producing a festival and all steps in between. Dozens of short, interactive exercises can help tellers flesh out stories. Chace also gives tips for effectively handling stumbling blocks like stage fright, room distractions, vocal control, and proper use of microphones. An extensive bibliography includes print and digital sources. Reproducible handouts and rubrics make this an indispensable source for every storytelling classroom. Although geared to schools, these lessons, tips, and suggestions easily can be adapted to other venues and age groups. (2015)

Ellis, Elizabeth. *Every Day a Holiday: A Storyteller's Memoir*. Parkhurst Brothers Publishers. 2014. Celebrated storyteller Elizabeth Ellis's memoir doesn't just read beautifully; her amusing and poignant stories can be *heard* as they leap off the page in her gentle but powerful voice. The frame of eleven holidays allows Ellis to reminisce about family and telling moments in her life as when she advised desperate Valentine's Day customers on how to charm their loved ones when all the red roses had been sold, or when she tried unsuccessfully to take her travel-averse mother to the Grand Ole Opry. Ellis enchants us with her heart, her insights, and her humor, even as she invites us to live more aware that every day "is" a holiday. (2015)

Ellis, Elizabeth. *From Plot to Narrative: A Step-By-Step Process of Story Creation and Enhancement*. Parkhurst Brothers, Inc., 2012. For anyone trying to develop personal stories but unsure how to begin, this should do the trick! Ellis' conversational tone and clarity make success seem perfectly possible. Her flexible attitude towards processes like storyboarding - that at first glance might feel artificial - leads tellers through any initial discomfort and into a new manageable way of working. That, in itself, deems *From Plot to Narrative* a distinguished and valuable resource. (2013)

Freeman, Judy. *Once Upon a Time: Using Storytelling, Creative Drama and Reader's Theater with Children in Grades PreK – 6*. Libraries Unlimited, 2007. For the novice to experienced storyteller, here is a resource jam-packed with one idea after another and "field tested" so they can be used with confidence. Included are booklists, how-to's, some full texts of tales, songs and stories in Reader's Theater format—a treasure trove for all! (2009)

Gillard, Marni. *Storyteller, Story Teacher: Discovering the Power of Storytelling for Teaching and Living*. Stenhouse, 1996. Rather than laying out a how-to-do-it in ten easy steps approach, Gillard offers us a highly personal journey through storytelling in which she explores major turning points in her past and recalls those books and tales that left indelible impressions on her during childhood. Although Gillard's anecdotes and experiences are unique to her, they invite the reader, whether they are tellers or teachers, to look inside themselves for ways of connecting with stories that will express the meaning of their own unique lives. (1998)

Hearne, Betsy. *Beauties and Beasts*. Oryx Press, 1993. Twenty-seven stories containing 'beauty and beast' motifs are assembled by Hearne. While each is interesting in its own right, they are even more interesting in relation to one another. Perhaps the most valuable portion of this book is the essay "In the Dark with Disney", in which Hearne elucidates why the popular animated film is less satisfying psychologically than the folktales which inspired it. There is much food for thought in this book that is simultaneously lively and learned. (1994)

Jaffe, Nina. *A Voice for the People: The Life and Work of Harold Courlander*. Holt, 1997. A unique biography of Harold Courlander whose appreciation of all human cultures, as presented through music, story, and folk ways, has left an indelible mark on storytelling. Courlander recorded his culturally authentic stories directly from the people, putting them in context, and setting the standard for future collectors and tellers. Jaffe tells his story with profound respect, weaving together interviews, stories, and archival research in a highly readable homage. (1998)

Jaffe, Nina and Steve Zeitlin. *While Standing on One Foot: Puzzle Stories and Wisdom Tales from the Jewish Tradition*. Holt, 1992. These non-violent solutions to seemingly insoluble situations stress agile thinking and creative perspective. Jaffe and Zeitlin begin a story and pause at the climax to allow us to try to devise an appropriate resolution. They then reveal how the ancients answered these riddles. Witty and ingenious. these conundrums beg to be used wherever ethics, justice and peaceful coexistence are discussed. (1996)

Levine, Ellen. *Freedom's Children: Young Civil Rights Activists Tell Their Own Stories*. Putnam, 1993. Thirty African-Americans who were children and teen-agers active in the civil rights movement of the 1950's and 60's tell the stories of their experiences in this intensely moving volume. Levine presents their first-hand accounts so that the setting and the temper of the times are vivid. The resolve and courage of these young people are made immediate and profoundly inspiring. (1996)

MacDonald, Margaret Read with Jennifer MacDonald Whitman and Nathaniel Forest Whitman. *Teaching with Story*. August House, 2014. Teachers looking to incorporate storytelling into the classroom – look no further! Renowned storyteller and librarian Margaret Read MacDonald and her co-authors, both experienced teachers, lead readers through the "Seven C's" of storytelling – Community, Character, Communication, Curriculum, Cultural Connections, Creativity, and Confidence. They show how stories can enrich the classroom and increase student learning. Chock full of easy-to-tell stories and tips for telling, this is an invaluable resource both for beginners and more seasoned teachers and tellers. (2015)

Maguire, Jack. *The Power of Personal Storytelling: Spinning Tales to Connect with Others*. J. P. Tarcher/Putnam, 1998. Professional storyteller Jack Maguire calls on us to probe our memories for those personal stories which have shaped and given meaning to our lives. First he shares his own stories, and then outlines step-by-step activities to get us going. Theory and practice merge in this eloquent and inspiring appeal. For experienced or would-be storytellers, and for all who seek to communicate more effectively, enhance their personal and professional relationships, and come to better understand themselves. (2000)

May, Jim. *Trail Guide for a Crooked Heart*. Parkhurst Brothers, 2015. How do stories shape, inform, reveal, and preserve the precious details of a life? Jim May's dive into Story provided him joy, guidance, solace, and inspiration; he, in turn, reminds us we possess stories that can strengthen relationships with ourselves, with others, and with the natural world. STORY, that sturdy little package, can become a vessel, a map, a bridge, a trail guide...a home. Our lives are illuminated with beacons from folktales, legends, and fairy tales, as we journey in both space and time through the storyteller's (he)art. (2017)

Seeger, Pete and Paul DuBois Jacobs. *Pete Seeger's Storytelling Book*. Harcourt, 2000. "Traditions of story and song belong to everyone." Pete Seeger, one of America's most beloved musicians, extends a delightful invitation to teachers, parents and grandparents to tell tales from their own lives. This book offers tempting samples – song based stories, music, past Seeger family events and accounts

from American history, as well as tips on story personalization and effective lead-ins. Seeger's message is clear: he wants all of us to start storytelling traditions of our own in order to share words, ideas and history with the children in our lives. (2002)

Sierra, Judy. *Storyteller's Research Guide: Folktales, Myths and Legends*. Folkprint, 1996. Here is a nuts and bolts tool so useful and brief – it's small enough to be easily portable – that storytellers of all levels won't want to be without it. Herself an accomplished teller, Sierra provides clear definitions of often-used terms in folklore, bibliographies of tellable tales and indexes to finding them. Also included are practical approaches to online resources and the Internet as well as a down-to-earth look at fieldwork and copyright issues affecting storytellers. (1998)

Sima, Judy and Kevin Cordi. *Raising Voices: Creating Youth Storytelling Groups and Troupes*. Libraries Unlimited, 2003. Mounting evidence supports and demonstrates that storytelling provides marvelous venues for the development of language skills among young people. Judy Sima and Kevin Cordi offer a reassuring blueprint, so librarians and teachers can avoid reinventing the wheel. Practical in its every suggestion, this book offers ideas for attracting kids to join a storytelling group, as well as organizational plans for both leaders and young participants. They incorporate activities to assist in learning stories, in presenting stories, and offer suggestions for raising funds. With this guide in hand, all who believe in story and its value for young storytellers will find themselves inspired and well on their way. (2004)

Smith, Barbara McBride. *Tell It Together: Foolproof Scripts for Story Theatre*. August House, 2001. Here is a collection of 23 scripts taken from myths, folktales and fiction, all kid-tested and written by a full time school librarian and renowned storyteller who was recently named Tulsa, Oklahoma's Elementary Teacher of the Year. Using narrators to move the stories forward, McBride Smith gives all characters a few lines that can easily be read aloud by children in a group ensemble that will be fun and non-threatening for even the most reluctant of young public speakers. She also provides suggestions for sound effects, simple costumes and staging that can be enjoyed by audiences of both children and adults. Not only is her choice of scripts remarkably varied – all the way from the hilarious "Bubba, the Cowboy Prince" to the haunting "Arachne and Athena" – she also encourages teachers and students alike to expand their creativity by writing scripts for stories of their own choosing. (2002)

Yashinsky, Dan. *Suddenly They Heard Footsteps: Storytelling for the Twenty-First Century*. University Press of Mississippi (American Edition), 2006; Vintage Canadian (Canadian Edition), 2005. Cultural history, instruction, memoir and personal stories collide when this Canadian storyteller reflects on how storytelling grounds us in a digital sound-byte society. He explores how stories enable us to find our identity, celebrate our families, shape our lives and create communities. The art of storytelling is viewed through his decidedly philosophical, humorous, inspiring, and instructive lenses. Central to the book is his belief that the stories we give away are the only ones we keep. (2007)

Yee, Paul. *Chinese Fairy Tale Feasts: A Literary Cookbook*. Illustrated by Shaoli Wang with recipes by Judy Chan. Crocodile Books, 2015. Tasty recipes and Chinese proverbs enrich this heady "stew" of Chinese fairy tales. For each story, Yee illuminates glimpses of Chinese culture and history highlighting salient features from foods to spiritual traditions. While themes of the wise and generous child, greedy adults, foolish scholars, mischievous monkeys, and ungrateful characters resonate with global folktale themes, unexpected plot twists make this collection a tantalizing and nourishing feast for eager listeners, as well as scholars of storytelling. (2017)

Yolen, Jane. *How to Fracture a Fairy Tale*. Tachyon Publications, 2018. Masterful storyteller and award-winning author, Jane Yolen presents twenty-eight fractured fairy tales. She skillfully weaves stories so that familiar ones meld into new and wonderful incarnations. To round out the collection, helpful notes and delectable poems describe how she fractured these tales. (2019)