

## **How to Tell the Story (Develop Your “Style”)**

- ☐ Incorporate a special talent if you have one:
  - Artists might use markers and chart paper to draw things as they tell their stories
  - Dancers might want to act out the movements of an animal
  - Singers may want to hum or sing a tune in the story
- ☐ Tell the story in a way that is natural to you:
  - Deliver the story the way you talk (If you are loud and funny, be loud and funny! If you are calm and steady, be calm and steady.)
- ☐ Try to keep the audience involved, especially little kids (older students may like less interaction):
  - ☐ Ask simple yes and no questions they can respond to
  - ☐ Ask the audience to make predictions
  - ☐ Add rhymes or chants
- ☐ With your voice you can:
  - ☐ Create characters’ accents
  - ☐ Show emotion—anger, fear, confidence
  - ☐ Take pauses to create suspense
  - ☐ Use sound effects
- ☐ With your body you can:
  - ☐ Vary your facial expressions to show emotions
  - ☐ Make gestures to show what characters are doing
- ☐ Imagine all the smells, and sights, and sound of the setting in your story—it will make the tale seem more real to your audience!

## How to Learn a Story

Learn a story like you'd learn a joke:

- Remember the setting, the characters, and what happens (the plot), and certain important phrases
- When you retell it, though, use your own words

Don't memorize it!

- Even though the author's words may seem perfect, your own words will have more authority and seem more natural

"Tell it to the dog"

- Practice telling the story out loud
- Don't use the mirror—it is hard to watch and listen at the same time, and it could make you self-conscious

Cut down on the details except as they paint a picture for the audience's imagination

- This isn't an oral report or descriptive essay

Deliver it, don't "perform"

- The listeners want to focus on the story, not you, so don't be nervous
- If you love the story it will shine through
- Trust the story—just tell it

Have fun!

(Adapted from [www.storytellers.net/tellers/m\\_ketner](http://www.storytellers.net/tellers/m_ketner))