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THE ART OF STORYTELLING

'A superb day – enjoyable, sociable, informative and I learned so much about an art that has always fascinated me.' – Glynn Roberts, IT consultant

'Truly stimulating and imaginative... This is a course I will be recommending to all my friends!' Rebecca Marsh, journalist & parent

Everyone can benefit from learning storytelling skills. Whether you are a public presenter or a parent, whether you are a professional or a just a person looking for a creative, fun, accessible art form, this enjoyable and highly engaging course is for you.

You will learn

- to understand and use your own natural story skills
- ways of developing new skills
- what the skills of a good storyteller are
- how to tell tall tales and improvise fun narratives
- skills of developing, elaborating and changing story plots creatively
- at least 5 x flexible story patterns to tell in your own way
- how stories communicate and improve all communication
- the central importance and effectiveness of metaphor
- how to use verbal and non-verbal language in storytelling
- how to develop storytelling confidence
- how to develop a repertoire of stories

The course is available as a public one-day workshop at various locations and as an in-house training. Two-day workshops are also available, combining material from other workshops to suit needs of organizations.

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

The programme given overleaf an example of the timetable and typical schedule followed at a recent public workshop. Timings are flexible and can be adjusted to suit host organizations. The Art of Storytelling can be adapted to suit the requirements of particular professions and interest groups.

The Art of Storytelling

Registration from 9.30 a.m.

Session 1. 10.00 a.m. to 11.20 a.m.

The Natural Storyteller

Introductory talk: Natural and developed storytelling skills. How stories and metaphors communicate. Some interesting and relevant elements of the psychology of story. Fun with story games. Three stories.

Activities~:

- The Spanish Game: traditional visualizing game
- Further visualizing games
- Telling tall tales: story games in duos and small groups.
- Passing it on: sharing short invented stories.

Plenary; Drawing together threads and lessons re. natural storytelling capacities.

Tea/coffee etc. 11.00 to 11.30 a.m.

Session 2. 11.40 a.m. to 1.00 p.m

Knowing & growing the story.

Learning stories from key words and skeletons

Using visualization to learn stories

The elements of stories: plots, motifs, intros and endings.

Why not simply memorise? How stories need to be stretched or trimmed to suit time, place and people

Activities:

- Learning 5 x stories from outlines (Separate sets for Groups A & B)
- Re-telling selected stories in own words one-to-one
- The Embroidery Game: Making stories stretch.
- Further re-telling in small & larger groups
(Members of A with A and B with B)

Lunch 1.00 p.m to 2.00 p.m.

Session 3. 2.00 p.m to 3.15 p.m.
The Way You Tell 'em

The art of stretching stories, illustrated through two stories. Some techniques from traditional telling, modern presentation, comedy etc, including The Rule of Three, List Technique, preambles, rambles and asides etc.

Using body language.

Voice projection, tricks with voice etc.

Some additional techniques of adapting to time, place and people

Activities:

- Telling and feedback: a) members of A to B and vice versa)
- b) mixed A and B groups

Tea/coffee etc.: 3.15 to 3.35 p.m.

Session 4. 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.
Building the Repertoire

How to find stories to suit (a recommended reading, listening and action list)

Developing an ear for a story: how to see stories in everyday events.

Inventing new stories and transposing traditional patterns.

How patterns and plots repeat in stories and some reasons
(plus example stories)

- New Lamps for Old (game exercise in transposition of stories)
- Picturing it new (mental techniques)
- Smaller group telling again.

Plenary: Putting it all together. Opportunities for some telling to whole group.
Final story examples. Recommended reading etc.

*Clear handouts allow participants to revisit and consolidate the day's learning,
There will also be a various CDs and short publications available for purchase on
the day by cheque or cash.*

Your tutor: *Rob Parkinson has been a professional storyteller since 1984. He is one of the leading professionals working in storytelling education and training in the UK today and is highly skilled in telling tales to large and small audiences of all ages. He also performs regularly as a storyteller/multi-instrumentalist at public venues and in schools and libraries etc. and has made several appearances on national TV and radio. Rob has run training courses for very many members of*

the general public as well as for professionals in education, counselling, therapy and healthcare - and contrastingly also for communications specialists in major corporations. He has written extensively on the subject of storytelling, story games and stories and is the author of a major book on the subject of change through stories. Various CDs, publications and free downloads of Rob's work are also available from

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