Tom Lee
Storytelling & Writing Workshops

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

· To raise students' levels of confidence in their abilities to create, write, and tell stories.
· To develop the necessary tools with students to break down the creative process.
· To encourage literacy and communication.
· To foster community ties through storytelling.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Tom Lee tells traditional stories from around the world. These stories demonstrate the culture and thematic concepts present in the societies from which they originate. Not only do they contain cultural and historical contexts, these stories also contain morals relevant to today's society. These vary from the whimsical, to the breathtakingly adventurous, and to thought-provoking dramas. All materials are drawn from Tom's own extensive research and travels. He keeps his tales grade-appropriate, and guarantees that they will be deeply engaging.

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Arts for
Learning
Connecticut

About the Artist & Program Preparations

ABOUT THE ARTIST

After graduating from Connecticut College in 1982, I moved to London, England to train in theater at the Webber-Douglas Academy. Once, we were asked to learn an Elizabethan monologue; I reached a little outside of the box, and came in with the episode of Saul and the Witch at Endor from the King James Bible. As I performed the piece, I realized I wasn't reciting a monologue, I was telling a story. The notion intrigued me. Slowly, I began to perform stories for a variety of audiences. My one man play "Grimm" was eventually produced in a late-night performance at a London pub theater called, appropriately, The Man in the Moon. That production went on to the Edinburgh Festival and was excerpted on BBC-TV. Still, it was only when I returned to America and began telling stories to children that the real power of traditional stories struck me with a tremendous force. Stories, I realized, were not texts to recite so much as maps one could follow to create a unique, shared experience with one's listener. Children have enriched everything I know about storytelling.

PRE PROGRAM

· Discuss folktales with your students. Pay attention to the terminology and traditional usage of the word. Make sure to differentiate between a folktale and a fable.

· Ask your students what myths and legends are made up of. Keep in mind that myths relate to religious beliefs, and legends relate to historical beliefs.

· Do your students know any folktales? Ask them to share their stories with the class.

· Do your students grandparents or great-grandparents hail from a foreign nation? Do your students know any traditional stories from those nations and can they relate them to the class?

POST PROGRAM

· Which of Tom's stories were your students favorites? Why?

· What lessons did Tom's stories impart?

· How were Tom's stories reflective of their originating culture?

· Ask your students to describe the pictures Tom's stories created in their minds. Have them write descriptive paragraphs containing as much detail as possible about the scene, then have them draw it out.

CURRICULAR LINKS

Common Core Standards:

Writing Text Types and Purposes; Production and Distribution of Writing; Range of Writing. Speaking and Listening Standards – Comprehension and Collaboration; presentation of Knowledge and Ideas Language Standards- Knowledge of Language; Vocabulary Acquisition and Use.

National Core Arts Anchor Standards:

Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
Anchor Standard #2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work. Anchor Standard #6. Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work. Anchor Standard #8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

VOCABULARY and CONCEPTS

Language | Story Structure | Plot | Patterns | Phonemic awareness | Folktales | Fairytales | Legends | Myths

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