

Laying the Foundation for a Successful Storytelling Experience

Call your teachers and schedule a time to meet face to face with them,
as soon as possible after you receive your assignment.

- Or -

If you are unable to reach your teachers by phone, and they do not return your emails,
then show up at the school to meet with them on a teacher workday.

The school secretary will usually know when to advise you to arrive
so you don't conflict with other appointments or meetings.

Your school district website should post a school calendar indicating teacher workdays.

Suggested Topics of Discussion

About Yourself:

Write a brief autobiography (Teachers often read this to their students and then post it.)

Include a picture

Discuss your approach to storytelling

Include your name, address, phone number, and email address

Pass along a Chapter brochure

Discuss the benefits of storytelling

Give permission for open and honest exchange of feedback about the storytelling experience

About the Teacher:

Clarify the teacher's expectations of you

Discuss frequency of telling and length of sessions

Commit to being prompt

Tell age-appropriate stories

Establish whether teachers may request stories that align with their curriculum

Clarify your expectations of the teacher

Remain in the classroom sitting in the story circle

Participate in the experience

Model active listening

Monitor student behavior and separate students if necessary

About the Students:

Identify if the teacher has students in the class with special needs -

ADD, ADHD, autistic, hearing-impaired, or English as a Second Language (ESL)
students may need additional accommodations

Discuss any restrictions regarding types of stories some students may not be exposed to

About the Environment:

Identify and evaluate the classroom area you will use for the storytelling experience

Maximize space

Minimize distraction

About the Schedule:

Establish a system for monthly scheduling, i.e. first Monday of each month

Schedule the time-frame and date for each month

Circle the days on a school calendar when you will arrive to tell stories

Make copies of your schedules for each teacher