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### Storytelling Unit

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#### Recommended Citation

Murry, Tanna, "Storytelling Unit" (1973). *Honors Theses*. 302.

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HONORS PROJECT REPORT

STORYTELLING UNIT

by Tanna Murry

December, 1973

## STORYTELLING

Since man learned to communicate with other men, storytelling has been a means for relating information, for teaching a lesson and for entertaining. As an elementary major with certification as a school librarian I will have daily opportunities to use storytelling with children. For this reason I decided to do this project on the different techniques of storytelling. The project gave me a chance to use different techniques to make the beginnings of a story pack I'll have for years and that I'll use year after year.

In this report of the project I will take each story I included in my story booklet and explain the method of telling to be used and give a brief summary of the story.

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS by Irma E. Webber. This is the story of four mice who see animals from different points of view. For example, Front Mouse saw all the animals from head on, while High Mouse saw them all from the top side. The moral of the story is there are as many different ways to see things as there are ways to look at them.

This story is to be told with the flannel board. I made the front, side, back, and top views of a cow, a donkey, a pig and a cat out of felt. I think they are just precious especially the rear view animals. This is a cute story and children like it.

DONKEY-DONKEY. This is a story that the teller must act out as he tells it. It is the story of a donkey who thinks his ears are ugly so he asks his friends what to do about them. They all tell him to wear his ears the way they wear theirs, but something goes wrong every time. The teller uses his

arms to show how Donkey-Donkey wear his ears. Children really like this story and they like to do the motions with the teller.

THE SCARECROW. This is another flannel board story in which the teller builds on the board a scarecrow as the story is told. In the story a grandmother builds a scarecrow to keep the blackbirds out of her cherries.

The parts of the scarecrow are made from pelon. This is just ideal for flannel board stories because pictures can be traced on to it. If permanent magic markers are used the ink won't come off or smear even if the figures are used repeatedly. Also if a figure gets wrinkled a low iron will press it out. This is the first time I had ever worked with pelon flannel board characters and I think it's just great!

ROUNDING UP THE REINDEER. This is an action story which I happened to come across during the Holiday Season. As the teller tells the story he acts out certain parts. For example, clap hands one time to show a deer closing. The plot of the story is concerned with Santa going out to look for his reindeer and being chased home by a polar bear. The bear also chased the reindeers home. This is an excellent Christmas story that children like to do over and over.

THE BIG, BIG TURNIP. In this story a farmer planted a turnip seed and it grew into such a big turnip that he couldn't pull it up by himself. He asks his wife to help but the two of them couldn't do it. In the end it took the help of the daughter, the dog, the cat, and the mouse to get the turnip up.

This is a cumulative story told with the flannel board. As each character joins the group he is placed on the board. The characters are made from pelon and are so cute. The children love the repetitions in this story.

THE NICEST PLACE IN THE WORLD, by Bernice Wells Carlson. Children help tell this story by supplying the animal sounds found in it. It the story of a little boy named Otto who wanted to find the nicest place in the world to live. In the story different animals tell him that their homes are the nicest places to live. My favorite part is where a baby chick tells Otto that under the wing of the Mother Hen is the nicest place to live. But when Otto tries to crawl under the Mother Hen's wing she pecked him soundly on the head. In the end he discovers that the nicest place to live is in one's own home.

WHAT WAS BEHIND THE DOOR? by Bernice Wells Carlson. Granny was mending Tommy's socks when she began to hear animal noises behind the door. Each time she would hear an animal sound she would asks if it was alright to have that animal in the house. Of course the animal answered by saying "Yes". But when she heard a lien she thought things had gone to far. She went to see what was behind the door and guess what she found. Tommy.

This story is told with a story beard that has a picture of the granny mending socks on it. There is a green construction paper door that can be opened to reveal Tommy.

CHRISTOPHER by Marjorie Flack. Christopher is a curious puppy who lives with a girl named Sally and a boy named Tom. One day when they were going to Grandmether's, Sally and Tom gave Christopher a bath so he would be nice and clean. But Christopher didn't stay that way long and Sally and Tom had to give the bath all over.

The characters of this story are on poster beard and cut out. Sandpaper on the back lets them adhere to the flannel beard. Also there are picture cards to go along with the story.

THREE BEARS. I chose this old favorite to see if I could add a new interest to it. What I did was to make puppets from paper sacks. These puppets can be used by the teller in telling the story or the children may use them. Many young children are familiar enough with the story to enjoy acting it out as the teller tells the story.

MOTHER GOOSE RHYMES. Mother Goose rhymes are important to the growing child. I made and laminated picture cards for the following rhymes: "Jack Be Nimble", "The Old Woman In the Shoe", "Jack and Jill", "Humpty Dumpty", "Hey, Diddle, Diddle", "Little Boy Blue". Also I made a papier mache Humpty Dumpty.

This is just the beginning of a storytelling pack I'll have and use for years. Now that I've used a variety of storytelling techniques, I know I can use them successfully and I will continue to do so.

I think I gained much by doing this project. I not only have these stories typed and in a booklet with visual aids to go with them, but I have the ability to do more. Also I enjoy good children's literature and I read a lot to pick these stories. As a result I'm better prepared for story time either in the classroom or the library.

## IT LOOKS LIKE THIS

Now there were four mice who lived in a barn. Now, sometimes, High Mouse, who lived high up in the barn heard strange noises down below him. Every time he heard these noises he would look down through a knothole in the floor. That is how he found out that things that say "Mee" look like this. And things that say "Mee-Maw" look like this. And things that say "Oink Oink" look like this.

Now Back Mouse lived at the back of the barn. He heard strange noises, too. Every time he heard these noises he would look out to see what made them. And that is how he found out that things that say "Mee" look like this. And things that say "Mee-Maw" look like this. And things that say "Oink Oink" look like this.

Front Mouse lived at the front of the barn. When he heard the strange noises, he would peek out, too. And that is how he found out that things that say "Mee" look like this and things that say "Mee-Maw" look like this and "Oink Oink" look like this.

Side Mouse lived at the side of the barn. When he heard strange noises he would peek out, too. And that is how he found out that things that say "Mee" look like this. And things that say "Mee-Maw" look like this. And things that say "Oink, Oink" look like this.

One day all the mice who lived here, here, here, and here heard a new noise that went like this: "Meow, Meow" "EEK!" They ran to the storeroom where the thing that said, "Meow" couldn't get in. When they were safe in the storeroom they all began to feel foolish. "I wasn't scared," said High Mouse. And he stuck his tail in some flour that had spilled out of a flour bag. Then he drew

a picture on the tar paper wall. "I'm not even afraid of great big things that say "Mee" and look like this.

This time all the other mice laughed at Front Mouse. "You're both wrong," said Side Mouse. "I'll show you." He put some flour on his tail. "I've seen these "Mee" things and they look like this.

"Oh, no! All of you are wrong," Back Mouse said. "These things that say "Mee" really look like this. And I guess you don't even know that things that say "Mee-Maw" look like this." That made the other mice angry. Soon they were all drawing and arguing, arguing and drawing. The more they argued, the more they drew, until the tar paper looked like this.

They were still arguing, when from right outside the window came a sound again, "Meow" They stopped arguing and looked. And that is how they all found out that things that say "Meow" look like this.

"See what I mean," said Front Mouse, "I was right." High Mouse, Side Mouse, and Back Mouse began to wonder if Front Mouse had been right all along. Then suddenly the thing outside turned and walked away. And that is how they all found out that things that say "Meow" can look like this.

"See! See! See!" said Side Mouse. "That's what I've been telling you." But just then the outside turned and walked away. And that is how they all found out that things that say "Meow" can look like this.

"Oh dear me!" cried High Mouse. "Now they all know they were right but they don't know I wasn't wrong."

Just then the thing jumped down to the ground and walked away. And this time they all found out that things that say "Meow" can look like this. And it was High Mouse, Front Mouse, Side Mouse and Back Mouse who all found out SOMETHING ELSE. They found that the one thing can look many different ways— as many as there are ways to look at it.



## DONKEY - DONKEY

Once upon a time there was a donkey whose name was Denkey-Denkey. As he was drinking water down at the pond one day, he looked at his reflection in the water and what he saw made him very sad—two big laseeng ears! Sadly he walked back to the barnyard to ask his friend what could be done.

Deggie-Deggie said "ehhhhhh Denkey-Denkey, don't wear your ears way up high like that! Wear them down like mine. There! That is much nicer!" With that Denkey-Denkey pranced happily back to the barnyard—but eeeehh how the other animals laughed at him! This made Denkey-Denkey even sadder. He went to another friend for advice—Peggy Pig.

Peggy Pig said, "OOOH, Denkey-Denkey, don't wear your ears way up high like that! Wear them out to the front like mine. There! That is much nicer and with that Denkey-Denkey pranced back to the barnyard. But his ears were seee laseeng that he could not see where he was going and ran right into the ladder. On the ladder was the farmer with a big can of red paint. Splash! Zenk! Down came the ladder, the farmer and the can of paint—right on top of Denkey-Denkey! Of course he was very sad now! He went to look for another friend.

Kathy Cow said, "OOOH, Denkey-Denkey, don't wear your ears up high, down like Deggie Deggie, or in front like Peggy Pig. There is only one way to wear ears and that is out to the side like I wear mine. There! That is much nicer."

Denkey-Denkey feeling a little better pranced back to the barnyard. But with his long ears so far out to the side he could not get through the barnyard door and cut his ear on a sharp nail! Poor Denkey-Denkey cried all night long. He was so very sad. The next day he just stood all alone in the pasture. His ears hung loose and limp because he was seee sad.

A little girl and her father walked past. "Oh, Daddy," cried the little girl, "Look at that Donkey with the looong beartiful ears." When Donkey-Donkey heard that his ears shot up in the air and he was as happy as he could be.



Donkey-Donkey



Doggie-Doggie



Peggy Pip



Cathy Cow



Donkey-Donkey  
at the end

## THE SCARECROW

Once upon a time a grandmother who lived in the country had a large cherry tree. It was loaded with ripe, red cherries. Now this grandmother was not spry as she used to be. She could not climb to the top of the tree to pick the red, ripe cherries to put in a pie. She had to wait until her grandson, Jack, came from the city. Jack's father had promised to bring him the next Saturday. But now it was Wednesday.

Grandmother didn't know what to do. She wanted to wait for Jack to pick the cherries, but how could she? Something was taking them and it was the blackbirds. If something was not done thought and thought of some way to frighten the birds away. Finally she had an idea. Do you know what she did?

(Have the children guess until scarecrow is suggested and then develop it on the flannel board.)

Grandmother took a stick and stuck it in the ground. She hung an old shirt on it. She tied a bundle of straw on it for a head. She tied on some old ragged overalls. She fastened old gloves for hands. When the wind blew it made him flap just like a man, and the birds didn't dare go near to steal any more cherries.

Now, Grandmother's funny old scarecrow could move his head. I'll show you can move your head just like him. (Motions: Head relaxed, bob forward, to one side, backward, to other side. Arms may dangle and hands shake as if blown by the wind.)

Finish with this poem:

The old scarecrow is such a funny man

He fleps in the wind as hard as he can.

He fleps to the right,

Hofleps to the left.

He fleps back and forth,

Till he's almost out of breath.

His arms swing out; his legs swing too.

He nods his head in a how-de-you-do

He flippityfleps when the wind blows hard,

The old scarecrow in our back yard.

## THE BIG, BIG TURNIP

A farmer once planted a turnip seed. And it grew, and it grew, and it grew. The farmer saw it was time to pull the turnip out of the ground. So he took hold of it and began to pull. He pulled and he pulled and he pulled and he pulled, but the turnip wouldn't come up. So the farmer called to his wife who was getting dinner. Fe, fi, fo fum I pulled the turnip but it wouldn't come up. And the wife came running, and she took hold of the farmer, and they pulled and they pulled and they pulled, but the turnip wouldn't come up. So the wife called to the daughter who saw feeding the chickens nearby. Fe, fi, fo, fum we pulled the turnip but it wouldn't come up. And the daughter came running. The daughter took hold of the wife. The wife took hold of the farmer. The farmer took hold of the turnip. And they pulled and they pulled and they pulled and they pulled. But the turnip wouldn't come up. So the daughter called to the dog who saw chewing a bone. Fe, fi, fo, fum we pulled the turnip but it wouldn't come up. And the dog came running. The dog took hold of the daughter. The daughter took hold of the wife. The wife took hold of the farmer. And the farmer took hold of the turnip. And they pulled and they pulled and they pulled and they pulled. But the turnip wouldn't come up. So the dog called to the cat who was chasing her tail. Fe, fi, fo, fum we pulled the turnip, but it wouldn't come up. And the cat came running. The cat took hold of the dog. The dog took hold of the daughter. The daughter took hold of the wife. The wife took hold of the farmer. The farmer took hold of the turnip. And they pulled and they pulled and they pulled and they pulled. But the turnip wouldn't come up. So the cat called the mouse who was nibbling

spinach nearby. Fe, fi, fo, fum we pulled the turnip, but it wouldn't come up. And mouse came running. "That little mouse can't help," said the dog. "He's too little."

"Theeey," squeaked the mouse. "I could pulled that turnip up myself, but since you have all been pulling I'll let you help too."

So the mouse teek of the cat. The cat teek hold of the dog. The dog teek hold of the daughter. The daughter teek hold of the wife. The wife teek hold of the farmer. The farmer teek hold of the turnip. And they pulled and they pulled and they pulled and they pulled. And UP came the turnip. And the mouse squeaked, "I told you so!"

## THE NICEST PLACE IN THE WORLD

Little Otto was thinking. He was thinking that he wanted to live in the nicest place in the world. "Where is the nicest place in the world?" he asked himself. Everyone around him was much too busy to answer, so he went up to the attic. An attic is a good place to sit and think. Just as he sat down to think, he saw a mouse.

"Pardon me, Little Mouse," said Little Otto. "Can you tell me the nicest place in the world to live?"

The Little Mouse said, "Squeak, squeak! The nicest place in the world to live is in a hole." Without making another sound, the little mouse darted into a hole in the side of the wall.

Little Otto got down on his hands and knees and looked into the hole. "A hole may be a very good home for a mouse," said Little Otto, "but I don't want to live in a hole in the wall."

Little Otto went down the stairs, out of the, and into the barn. A barn is a good place to sit and think. Just as he started to sit down, he saw a little chick creep under the wing of the mother hen.

"Pardon me, Little Chick," said Little Otto. "Can you tell me the nicest place in the world to live?" The Little Chick said, "Peep, peep! The nicest place in the world to live is under the wing of a mother hen." Without making another sound, the little chick crept under the wing of the mother hen.

Little Otto started to lift the wing of the mother hen, but she pecked him very hard!

"Well," said Little Otto, drawing back, "Under the wing of a mother hen may be a good place for a chick to live, but I don't want to live under the wing of a mother hen."

Little Otto went into the woods. A woods is a good place to sit and think. Before he could sit down, he saw a robin.

"Pardon me, Mother Robin," said Little Otto. "Can you tell me the nicest place in the world to live?"

Mother Robin said, "Cheer-up, cheer-up! The nicest place in the world to live is in a nest."

Little Otto tried to climb the tree to reach the nest, but he couldn't get his feet off the ground.

"Well," said Little Otto. "A nest may be a very good place for a robin to live, but I don't want to live in a nest!"

Just then Little Otto heard an old owl say, "Oooooo! I know the nicest place in the world to live."

"Don't tell me it's a hole in a tree!" said Little Otto, who had suddenly really started to think.

The old owl said, "Oooooo! The nicest place in the world to live is in your own home."

"That's right!" said Little Otto. "Thank you, Mr. Owl."

Little Otto ran home as fast as he could, up the steps of the porch, and into the kitchen where his mother was working.

"Mother," said Little Otto, "I know the nicest place in the world to live."

His mother said, "What?"

"I know the nicest place in the world to live," said Little Otto. "right here!"

\*Bernice Welle Carlson  
LISTEN! AND HELP TELL THE STORY



WHAT WAS BEHIND THE DOOR?

Granny sat in a big armchair mending Tommy's socks. All of a sudden she heard a dog say, "Bow-wow!"

"Gracious!" said Granny. "I do believe there's a dog behind the door. Should we have a dog in the house?"

"Oh, yes," answered the dog behind the door. "I'm a good dog. I don't jump at people."

"Very well," said Granny, and she went on darning socks for Tommy. All of a sudden Granny heard a cat say, "Meow, meow!"

"Gracious!" said Granny. "I do believe there is a cat behind the door. Should we have a cat in the house?"

"Oh, yes," answered the cat. "I am a good cat. I do not scratch the rug."

"Very well," said Granny, and she went on darning Tommy's socks. All of a sudden Granny heard a bird say, "Peep, Peep!"

"Gracious!" said Granny. "I do believe there is a bird behind the door. Should we have a bird in the house?"

"Oh, yes," answered the bird. "I am a good bird. I sing sweetly."

"Very well," said Granny, and she went right on darning Tommy's socks. All of a sudden Granny heard a lion say, "Grrrrr!"

"Gracious!" said Granny. "I do believe there is a lion behind the door. This is too much!"

Granny put down her darning. She stood up. She looked behind the door. What do you think she saw?

Of course it was Tommy! You know it all the time, didn't you?

—Bernice Wells Carlson

MOTHER GOOSE RHYMES

"Jack Be Nimble"

Jack be nimble,  
Jack be quick,  
And Jack jump over the candlestick.

"The Old Woman In The Shoe"

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.  
She had so many children she didn't know what to do.  
She gave them some broth, without any bread,  
Then kissed them all soundly, and sent them to bed.

"Jack and Jill"

Jack and Jill went up the hill,  
To fetch a pail of water;  
Jack fell down and brokd his crown,  
And Jill came tumbling after.

Then up Jack got ant home did trot,  
As fast as he could caper.  
He went to bed to mend his head  
With vinegar and brown paper.

"Humpty Dumpty"

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall;  
All the King's horses and all the King's men  
Cannot put Humpty Dumpty together again.

"Hey, Diddle, Diddle"

Hey, diddle, diddle!  
The cat and the fiddle,  
The cow jumped over the moon;  
The little dog laughed  
To see such sport,  
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

"Little Boy Blue"

Little boy blue, come blow your horn;  
The sheep's in the meadow, the cow's in the corn.  
Where's the Little boy that looks after the sheep?  
He's under the hay stack, fast asleep.