PBS teaching and learning resources

PBS Teachers℠

Focus on STORYTELLING

PBS Teachers Staff
<www.pbs.org/teachers>

African American Lives 2: Sharing Stories
<www.pbs.org/wnet/aalives/stories.html>
Resource Type: Interactive
Grade Range: 6–12
This interactive storytelling gallery provides a forum for students to share their family stories and also read stories submitted by others. The stories are organized according to frequently used terms, allowing students to explore commonalities among stories.

American Family: Multimedia Storytelling
<www.pbs.org/americanfamily/teacher3.html>
Resource Type: Lesson Plan
Grade Range: 6–12
This lesson plan is designed to help students explore the use of multimedia presentation techniques in effective storytelling. During the lesson, students design, write, storyboard and create multimedia presentations about important family events.

Art in the 21st Century: Personal Stories in the Public
<www.pbs.org/art21/education/public/lesson1.html>
Resource Type: Lesson Plan
Grade Range: 9–12
In this lesson, students consider the ethical issues surrounding the exposure of other people's personal stories through art and literature. They then create original narratives incorporating the stories of friends and family.

Arthur: Story Writing with Arthur
<http://pbskids.org/arthur/parentsteachers/lesson/storywriting>
Resource Type: Teacher's Guide
Grade Range: 1–3
This guide provides reading comprehension and writing activities to help students understand the elements of a story and then create original stories based on their own experiences. Useful handouts such as H-maps, story-writing checklists, and brainstorming charts are included.

Circle of Stories
<www.pbs.org/circleofstories/index.html>
Resource Type: Lesson Plans, Interactives
Grade Range: 8–12
The lesson plans on this site are designed to help students appreciate the value of storytelling in Native American culture and in their own lives. The lessons focus on the art and craft of storytelling and the importance of cultural preservation. The interactives allow students to listen to four Native storytellers and explore a multimedia gallery of images, inspirational quotes, poems and stories.

¡Colorín Colorado!: How to Connect Students' Background Knowledge to Content in the ELL Classroom

<www.colorincolorado.org/article/20827>
Resource Type: Article
Grade Range: 3–6
This article describes how images people visualize when reading or listening to a story vary depending on personal experience, and gives ideas for how teachers can help a diverse student population retain valuable information across subject areas.

Conquistadors: Comparing Creation Stories

<www.pbs.org/opb/conquistadors/teachers/teachers.htm>
Resource Type: Lesson Plan
Grade Range: 6-8
This lesson, located within the Pizarro and the Incas Teaching Guide, engages students in research and comparing and contrasting the Inca creation story with creation stories from other cultures. Students then write original creation stories about a fictitious culture.

Facilitating Oral Language Development

<www.pbs.org/teacherline/catalog/courses/RDLA200>
Resource Type: Professional Development
PBS TeacherLine Course #RDLA200
Grade Range: PreK–3
Blending both theoretical and practical information about oral language development for students PreK 3, this course will introduce you to proven ways to assess students' oral language skills and will give you the opportunity to practice strategies for teaching vocabulary to young students. The course also covers tactics for differentiating instruction to meet the needs of diverse students.

Great Performances: Making the Nightingale Sing

<www.pbs.org/wnet/gperf/education/plan_night_overview.html>
Resource Type: Lesson Plan
Grade Range: 9–12
In this lesson, students watch French filmmaker Christian Chaudet's adaptation of Igor Stravinksy's opera "Le Rossignol," or "The Nightingale." They then explore the art of storytelling and retell parts of the opera using contemporary lyrics and poetry to demonstrate their understanding of the plot, characters, relationships, themes, and moral of the story.

Mark Twain

<www.pbs.org/marktwain/learnmore/activities.html>
Resource Type: Offline Activities
Grade Range: 9–12
The activities on this site, particularly "Tall Tales and Dark Sides" and "Powerful Memories, Powerful Words," are designed to enhance students' appreciation of the art of storytelling as well as Twain's remarkable ability to tell a story in the vernacular. Through the activities, students learn about Twain's life and works and create original stories.

NOW: Capturing the Stories of Ordinary People

<www.pbs.org/now/classroom/maysles.html>
Resource Type: Lesson Plan
Grade Range: 9–12
In this lesson, students learn about the work of award-winning documentary filmmaker Albert Maysles and compare and contrast his "direct cinema" style to other storytelling styles. They then create and present short films and provide constructive feedback on classmates' projects.

Raising Readers

<www.pbs.org/teacherline/catalog/courses/RDLA051>
Resource Type: Professional Development
PBS TeacherLine Course #RDLA051
Grade Range: PreK–K
This course focuses on preparing preschoolers for success by developing their early literacy skills. The theories and strategies presented are based on the latest early literacy research from Susan B. Neuman and Kathleen Roskos (2007). You'll learn to use this research as you plan meaningful early literacy-learning experiences. These activities build on preschoolers' prior knowledge, expand their vocabulary, and strengthen oral language development - providing them with the foundation for reading, writing, and future academic success.

Reading Rainbow Young Writer's and Illustrator's Contest

<http://pbskids.org/readingrainbow/contest/index.html>
Resource Type: Online Stories
Grade Range: K–3
The Reading Rainbow Young Writer's and Illustrators's contest is in its fourteenth year. Students can learn how to submit stories or read the stories of past winners since 2001.

Storytelling

Resource Types: Online Interactives
Grade Range: PreK–2
Use this set of online interactives to practice storytelling skills.
Mister Rogers: Tell Your Own Neighborhood Story
<http://pbskids.org/rogers/make_believe/story.htm>

PBS KIDS: Dot's Story Factory
<http://pbskids.org/storyfactory>
Sagwa: Storymaker
<http://pbskids.org/sagwa/stories/storymaker/index.html>

The War: The Power of Story
<www.pbs.org/thewar/edu_power_of_story.htm>
Resource Type: Toolkit and Video
Grade Range: 9–12
This downloadable toolkit was designed to help students recognize the value of oral history and learn to use today's technology to record stories from their communities related to World War II. The guide clearly describes the process of creating a documentary and can be used to create multimedia stories about a variety of subjects. In the video, Ken Burns describes why he believes that history, as told through the stories of the men and women who witnessed it, is much more dramatic than anything Hollywood can dream up.

WordGirl
<http://pbskids.org/wordgirl/parentsandteachers/pt_lessonplans.html>
Resource Type: Online Activities, Lesson Plans
Grade Range: 1–3
This on-air program and companion Website explore vocabulary and related literacy skills such as storytelling through fun online video, interactives and lesson plans.