

Finding a Good Story to Tell

- Tell only stories you like
 - You should enjoy the story itself and the telling of it
- Expect to read a lot to find stories you like
- Make sure it's a story you have permission to tell

What makes a good story?

- to test it, read it aloud
- simple plot, no subplot, no digressions, no flashbacks
- characters we can relate to
- minimal characters/names
- arresting details
- intriguing problem – suspense, tension
- a good story for telling does not require much pre-telling or explanation

Where can you find good stories?

Margaret Read MacDonald's:

The Storyteller's Start Up Book: Finding, Learning, Performing, and Using Folktales including Twelve Tellable Tales. ISBN 0874833043; 0874833051 (paperback)

Three Minute Tales: Stories to Tell when Time is Short ISBN 0874837294

Five Minute Tales: More Stories to Read and Tell when Time is Short ISBN 0-87483-781-2

Bob Hartman's *The Lion Storyteller Book of Animal Tales*

ISBN 0745945813; 0745948383 (paperback)

*any of Bob Hartman's books are great!

Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss have a series *World Tales Kids can Read and Tell*, the tales are all short and come with background information and telling tips. There's:

Through the Grapevine ISBN 0-87483-625-5

How and Why Stories ISBN 0-87483-561-5

Noodlehead Stories ISBN 0-87483-584-4

Stories in My Pocket ISBN 155591957X

Sheila Dailey's *Putting the World in a Nutshell: The Art of the Formula Tale* ISBN 0-8242-0860-9

Margaret Read MacDonald's *The Storyteller's Sourcebook: A Subject, Title, and Motif Index to Folklore Collections for Children, 1983-1999*, is a helpful source for finding tales specific to particular themes, messages, or countries

ISBN 0-8103-5485-3