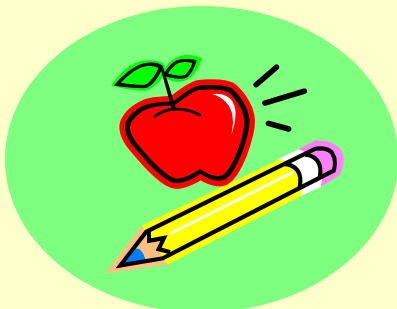




ESL Newsletter

Storytelling with ESL Students

One of the best ways you can improve the listening skills of your ESL students is through the old-fashioned art of telling stories, the kind that Grandma & Grandpa used to tell when they gathered on the front porch with friends & family. There are several reasons why storytelling is a reflective method for increasing listening comprehension. First, no matter what age, storytelling creates a semi-hypnotic, trancelike state (Sunwolf 2005). This hypnotic state keeps your students on the edge of their seats, listening intently & watching the storyteller. Next, storytelling creates a strong bond between the teller &



audience. As a storyteller, you are giving your students a gift: the story. Finally, storytelling invites the audience to participate & become part of the story. Here are a few guidelines for the beginner storyteller: 1) Make the story fairly brief & include actions & minimal pantomime 2) Pick a story you like but do not read from a script. 3) Teach key vocabulary terms first and include a few examples of everyday realia 4) Allow & encourage audience participation 5) Above all, **enjoy yourself!** You will delight your students & later they may want to share a story too. Keep in mind, our ESL students are already familiar with the art of storytelling because they come from cultures that include oral tradition & storytelling.

Source: Ohio TESOL Journal Vo. 4, No. 1

Storytelling Resources

To learn more about the art of storytelling, attend one of the storytelling events in Ohio. In July is the Akron Storytelling Festival & in autumn are festivals in Chillicothe as well as neighboring states of Tennessee and Kentucky. Also check out the official site for storytelling in Ohio: Ohio Order for Preservation of Storytelling. It is a membership based site but you will find resources here for free.

A Christmas Carol Lesson

Introduce your classroom to the novel A Christmas Carol by reading this Dickens classic through ESOLeBOOKS. At the website <http://christmascarol.esolebooks.com/> you will find a simplified version of this Christmas story in six easy to read parts, each with a teacher edition, activities & a vocabulary list. While at this website, check out other ESOLE books that are available.

Other Christmas lessons can be found at <http://busyteacher.org/3956-christmas-lessons-try-reading.html>.

How "Merry Christmas" is said...

Spanish: Feliz Navidad

Vietnamese: Chuc Mung Giang Sinh

Hawaiian: Mele Kalikimaka

Korean: Sung Tan Chuk Ha

Eskimo: (inupik) Jutdlime pivdluarit ukiotame pivdluaritlo!

Columbia: Feliz Navidad y Prospero Ano Nuevo

Merry Christmas! Thank you for all you do for our ESL students! Shirley Haeuptle, ESL Coordinator & Liz Toro, LEP Support- Stebbins High School