



## Workshops, Presentations and Professional Development Trainings

**Oral storytelling helps close the vocabulary and word gap...the most important factor in predicting successful literacy and language test performance for children. Early intervention is the key. Storytelling also advances comprehension of subjects including STEM and NGSS.**

This fun, interactive workshop for teachers, educators and/or parents presents dynamic, hands-on tools to use **oral storytelling** and related communication to increase literacy, language and reading-skills in children. Regular exposure to the rich environment storytelling provides also enhances cognitive ability and neural pathways in the brain, the foundation for learning. Program combines innovative storytelling secrets of folklore storyteller Ms. Cynthia, featured on NBC's **Today Show** and interviewed on NPR. A qualified, sponsored Arts Education Provider, her 26 storytelling programs acquired international distribution with Audible (a subsidiary of Amazon, Inc.), the preeminent provider for iTunes.

### Learning Outcomes and Takeaways:

1. The 11 Storytelling Secrets to boost language, reading and cognitive skills in children.
2. How to use everyday stories to ignite literacy, school subjects and the love of reading.
3. Tricks of the trade: How to use folktales and stories to dynamically develop cultural identity and language in children. English Language Learners and special needs children discussed (tales with Spanish on request).

### General Agenda and Activities-Presentation and Small Group Formats:

1. **The 11 Storytelling Secrets to Engage and Connect with Children:** Entertaining, interactive and performance portion of the program, drawn from a decade of live performances.
2. **What's in a Story?** Using oral stories as a literacy catalyst and optimal times for story.
3. **Use of Culturally Specific Folktales for English Language Learners:** Innovative ideas and resources to integrate the diverse cultures and languages of children in oral storytelling to skyrocket language and cognitive skills: the keys to literacy.
4. **Integrating the Special Needs of Children:** Capitalizing on the strength modalities of children with special needs in storytelling. Autism spectrum discussed.
5. **Using Story to Create Teachable Moments:** How to use everyday stories to help children express their feelings and fears; role playing and fun use of props.
6. **Stories and STEM:** The fun science of storytelling to create vital neural pathways in the brain and to transform challenging subjects into an adventure in learning!
7. **Everyone is a Storyteller:** Using participants' innate personalities to become an authentic and/or dynamic storyteller. Hands-on and feedback portion of program (copies of folktales provided).



Website: [www.storyhat.org](http://www.storyhat.org)  
Click on "Online Video" for Virtual Training!

### Background:

Ms. Cynthia has been interviewed on NBC's Today Show and NPR; and featured on segment on NBC's Your L.A. Her 26 folktale programs for children acquired international distribution by Audible (a subsidiary of Amazon, Inc.), the preeminent provider for iTunes. Until moving back to her roots in the North Bay, California, she was a qualified, sponsored Arts Education Provider in Storytelling (Performance Arts emphasis) for 5 years sponsored by the Los Angeles Unified School District. Master of Services in providing programs that integrate Performance Arts state standards (by grade).

She has joyfully provided and coordinated dynamic oral storytelling and literacy programs for libraries, schools, museums, literacy organizations and community services for more than a decade. Clients include Reading Is Fundamental of Southern California (and partner schools), L.A. Parent, Para Los Niños, UCLA's Fowler Museum, Westside Children's Center, Will Rogers Elementary School (ACE Teacher), Pantages Theater, Descanso Gardens, Warner Grand Theater and Amtrak's Coast Starlight; along with Head Start, LAUSD and LAUP conferences. She was one of the distinguished, sponsored storytellers for Arts Orange County and OCPL's 'Imagination Celebration' annual series sponsored by Target. Dedicated to providing literacy tools and viable storytelling models for teachers and parents alike, she presents popular professional development sessions live and online. Meeting the needs of a diverse population, she also uses Spanish at times in her programs; and her recurring articles appear in a myriad of education magazines.

She has traveled extensively in Australia, Italy, England, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Hawaii, Ireland and Mexico where she adopted elements from the local cultures, integrating them into her storytelling artistry. She holds university degrees in English and Communications and is a staple volunteer for organizations that serve children and volunteered for 5 years on a weekly basis to assist children with reading challenges in LAUSD (8 Appreciation Awards).

Ms. Cynthia is a podcast host and producer, updating the art of storytelling for a whole new generation of story listeners. Her podcasts feature multicultural folktales from around the world, and Beatrix Potter's timeless tales. She also recorded the volume of Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie (abridged) on CD. The audio stories allow children to use their imaginative and cognitive abilities, a key to a love of stories and reading achievement.

"A standing ovation...she inspires the kids!" – Rachel Boesing, Host of NBC's Your L.A

