

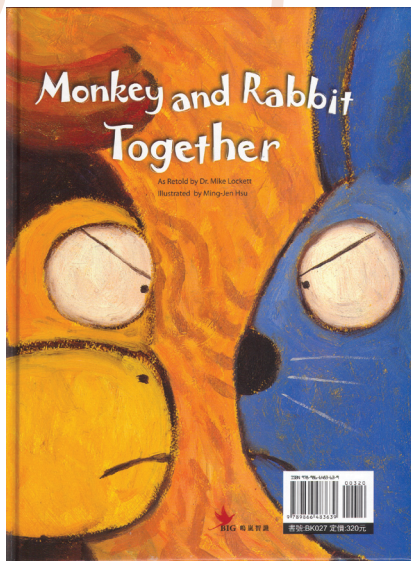
Heritage Schoolhouse Press

Storytelling – A Tool for to Promote Literacy

Students in today's world need to have every educational advantage that parents can give them. The easiest and most economical learning tool you can give children is to tell them stories. Start early, and continue telling stories throughout students' school years.

Hearing is the very first sense to develop in the humans. Even in the womb, a child reacts to sounds. Infants and young children who are talked to, read to, sung to and told stories develop literacy skills at a faster pace than children who do not receive such auditory stimulation. Students in the primary grades who are read to or who listen to stories for 15 minutes a day do significantly better in reading comprehension, listening, and have better vocabularies than children who are not stimulated in this manner.

Teachers can follow a standard curriculum and add just one more thing to help students do better on standardized tests. Teachers and parents need to tell children more stories. Storytelling helps improve listening and understanding of English. It helps learners improve reading comprehension, reading fluency and speaking abilities. Stories make learning fun. But, more than that, they are a key tool for promoting literacy.



One can demonstrate the importance of stories by using a hat. Pretend to hang a hat on the wall where there is no hanger. It will fall to the ground. Why? There is no hook! Stories are memory hooks for students. Stories are retained in the right brain as images that later help the left brain recall facts and knowledge far better than mere memorization.

A mother once asked the great Albert Einstein,
“What can I do to help my son become smart like you?”

“Tell your child folktales,” Einstein told the mother.

“What do I do then?” she asked.

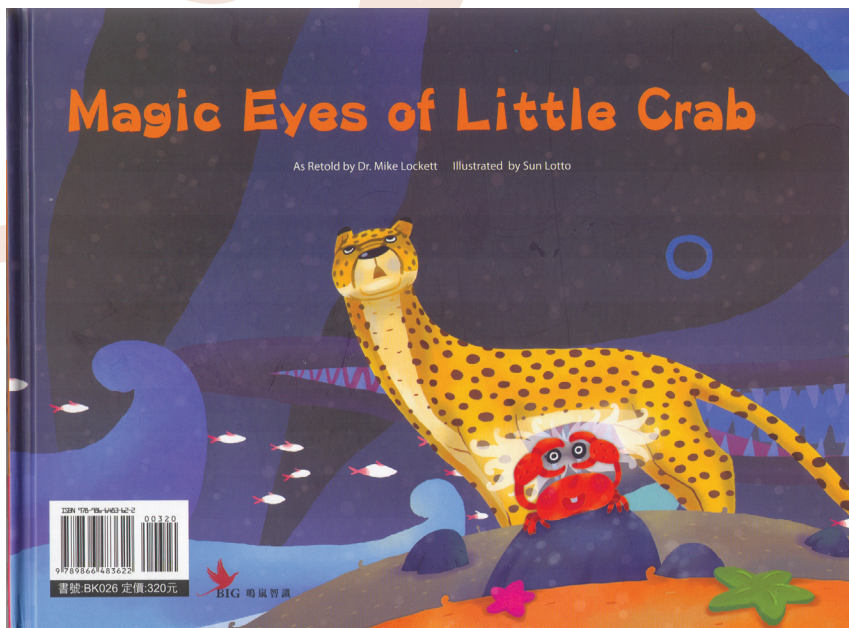
“Tell your child more folktales,” Einstein replied.

“What do I do then?” persisted the mother.

“By then, your child should be old enough to read folktales on his own,”
said the great scientist.

I am no Einstein! But, I know storytelling helps children learn. Besides, there is no better way to spend time with your child than to read a good book together or share a good story.

Why not experience the joy of reading or telling a story to your child today?



Dr. Michael Lockett is an educator, international storyteller and a children's author. He lives in Normal, Illinois and is often called “The Normal Storyteller.” He has received seven national awards for his storytelling CDs and won the 2009 “Creative Child Magazine” Storytelling DVD of the Year Award. He has published SIX bilingual children's books. Learn more about Dr. Lockett at www.mikelockett.com

