

Heather Whaley, 16 Rutledge St, Whitby, Ontario. L1P 1H2 905 668-2174
heather@heatherwhaley.ca

STORYTELLER / SINGER, SONGWRITER

Dear Teachers, Educators & Event Organisers

Heather Whaley c2008

I am involved in the education and entertainment performance arts and in **promoting literacy**. My expertise is in creating and delivering performance programs and workshops which include telling traditional, original and personal stories, and incorporating song and verse poetry into my performances. I am known as a musical storyteller and singer-songwriter to both children and adults, and am often hired for the literacy component of my programming and authorship of songs and some of the stories I tell. I perform for all ages, including adults, but my specialty seems to lie with primary and junior grades for Family Reading /Literacy Nights and special Education and Literacy Celebrations in the schools and at festivals. I am also involved with ArtSmarts programming through the Durham Board of Education and last year worked with a Grade 12 University Writer's Craft class. I will be available again this year for grades 7 -12 upon request of teachers. Please see my web site www.heatherwhaley.ca

Program Description

****All programs are based on the requirements and request of the teacher or organizer. I do recommend that you arrange your student divisions or audience suitably to meet comfortable seating and to the maturity level of the listeners. This is thoroughly discussed and arranged prior to my visits so that the program is comfortable for all of us.**

*My **multicultural theme** is a well received program. I relate my own experiences of growing up in Thunder Bay, Ontario with a Scottish father, Italian grandfather, grandmother from Liverpool, England; Ukrainian, Finnish, Polish, Ojibwa friends, and moving to the big city and meeting other cultures (have a song to help explain too) I also like to provide the audience with the opportunity to think about their own heritage and cultural background and what might be unique or the same as other cultures - appreciation for music and rhythm being one universal commonality we all seem to share. The program is built around this concept and I will tell related stories, poems and songs that fit the particular age groups, and time frame you choose for the set.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

I have been a feature storyteller/author for half and full days and for evening presentations for primary, junior and intermediate divisions.

Family Reading Nights: some schools prepare a Family Literacy Night program with a main concert or with rotating audiences of all ages, so that family can stay together. One group may visit a library display for a limited amount of time; another will hear authors of books or a different storyteller, and when the principal announces on the PA they will move to the next room. I have performed the feature concert as author and storyteller or have been set up in a room to receive audiences during three 30 minute sets in an evening.

Concerts

Primary grades:

Grades Jk - grade 2 - Participation, sequential & musical stories and songs to help encourage language development, comprehension and oral communication, as well as positive attitudes and appreciation for language

Rhythm & Rhyme Time!

Join energetic storyteller, singer-songwriter Heather Whaley for an hour of fun-filled snapping, clapping, tapping, singing & telling tales together in rhyme! With her light-hearted delivery, Heather brings many delightful traditional and original tales, poems, chants & tunes that are enjoyed by families at concerts, schools, libraries, festivals and several events across Ontario.

Junior grades

Grades 3 – 6 - Stories, songs and poetry focusing on sameness and differences, morals, cultural values & beliefs, re-enforcement of positive values and attitudes through humour and situations - Enrichment of vocabulary use/oral presentation skills and appreciation for language.

Connecting Community Through Storytelling: We Are All the Same ... We Are All Different! Presented by: Heather Whaley

Through the ancient art of oral tradition Heather brings focus to the importance of communicating love, togetherness, unity and acceptance, and how telling stories helps each of us to understand our similarities and differences.

She encourages writing and searching for stories to read aloud and tell, again and again. With her light-hearted delivery, Heather brings many delightful traditional and original tales, poems, chants & tunes that are enjoyed by families at concerts, schools, libraries, festivals and several events across Ontario.

i.e.: Adaptation of “The Ugly Duckling” I have written it as an **echo** song and retain the essence of the story - it can only be performed properly with the participation of older kids. I have also performed it on stage to adults so it could be an example model for intermediate story writing and adaptation/interpretation!

Intermediate Grades:

Grades 4-8 /or teens – even adults

"Tea & Toast Tales" Folk music, Folk tales, urban legends & Ghost stories for Older Kids

Sit back, listen, lean forward, and enjoy the fun & mystery, while Heather takes you through a variety of folk tales, urban legends, & ghost stories integrated with music, poetry and song. She brings a tasty mix of intriguing folklore to the table.

School Workshops: (example)

Primary & Junior – Half Day

Two 60 – 70 minute programs: Introduction to the importance of storytelling, with examples of diverse stories (folktales & personal tales) told in both casual and performance (drama) style, including a few storytelling games to each grade division. One grade division before recess and one following recess. Receive a copy of follow-up material for teachers. Storyboarding with Flannel board to help ‘show’ sequence & modelling a folk tale format. Follow-up classroom activity: Students rewrite the story in their own ‘voice’.

**Junior – the program would be adapted to focus on oral language development through musical rhythm, songs, rhyme, sequence, cumulative & pattern tales with predictable plots and strong characterizations; non-threatening moral stories and those of virtue. Full half-day workshop for this age is available upon request.

Workshops are also offered as ‘mini-workshops’ for several grades throughout the day. Please inquire *popular

Intermediate: Half day

Workshop Description: Introduction to the importance of storytelling with examples of diverse curriculum related stories; folktales, legends & personal, delivered in both casual and performance (drama) style with music, props, songs, poetry and song writing – participation.

Discussion: Importance of listening, respecting the one telling the story (storyteller), eye contact, gestures, intonation of voice, projecting voice, posture, providing images for self & listeners; story choice, their lessons and messages. Story structure: Transferring story from page to telling aloud & writing stories to tell.

How storytelling can help us understand diversity, cultural differences and social issues. How we can use storytelling to help us learn history, geography, math & sciences – Researching stories & related resources.

Telling stories in the classroom – using a talking stick or symbol to begin a telling session – Telling in your own voice – telling personal stories and incorporating original songs & poetry.

Use of elements, props, folk music, poetry, rhymes – interaction; including storytelling games and possibly an invitation to volunteer.

EVENTS: May be themed for your special occasion or event

For children & families: Lively, musical, participatory and educational

Adults: Please inquire

Please see Updated Program Document on the main page

BOOKING INFORMATION

Available dates – Please contact me with your request and we can discuss the potential dates.

Age range I perform to all ages however my Fortier in schools and at events is with primary and junior grades & families. Please inquire.

The maximum size of a group – 150 – 200 (negotiable)

Location: Classroom, library, gymnasium (half size) or community centre/tent– indoor & outdoor stage facilities* I bring props and a small amplifier with a head-set. Larger events please provide sound system if possible.

The type of stories I tell participatory multicultural global stories, personal tales reflecting my diverse upbringing and experiences with different cultures and families – humorous folk tales, thought provoking and *entertaining; Literacy - through original musical story songs, songs, poems, chants and storytelling games.

High School, Adults and older audiences: *A combination of dramatic, theatrical and conversational storytelling - Music > Period ballads, shanty songs, folk music, protest or significant classic songs as well as original Folk-style and Blues songs; Presentation

about the history of storytelling and the modern day storytelling industry. Encourage students to write their stories through these mediums.

Please see Events page for details about **MUSICAL STORY AND SONG THEATRE**

FEES

*_*fee scale meets the Canada Council for the Arts and Storytellers of Canada, recommended *minimum* rates for professional artist services. I thank you for your respect in this regard*

Please visit http://www.sc-cc.com/english/guidelines_prof_storytellers.htm to read the Guidelines for Storytellers, including suggested fees, as set forth by the national arts organization Storytellers of Canada - Conteurs du Canada."

School Rates – Fee scale: \$250.00 (plus distant travel) for one program up to an hour.
Same day performances: \$175.00 each for two full program sessions.

Half day - \$350.00_

Full day - \$600.00 **Time frames are negotiable and arranged accordingly as JK and kindergarten programs may be prepared in smaller groups for shorter periods if requested.

READING NIGHTS: \$250.00 - \$350.00 for two full concerts or up to three 25 -30 minute sessions.

Corporate Concerts, Organisations & Large Events: starting at \$250.00 based on size of event and audience.

Festivals – Highland Games, Community, Storytelling & Music: \$250.00 Children & Adults. Please contact me to discuss.

Daycares, Libraries, Guides/ Camps & House Concerts with small groups:
Introductory Specials offered for Halloween, Christmas, March Break & Summer Programs. Please contact me to discuss.

SPECIAL NEEDS & Severely Ill /Physically & Mentally Challenged Group Audiences – Children & Adults *Please feel free to call me and discuss potential programs to brighten the day.*