

Storyvalues and General Language Education Requirements

About Storyvalues, Language and Literacy

Storyvalues is an online resource based upon a fundamental expression of language; *the oral tradition of storytelling*. This ancient tradition is shared by every culture on earth as a primary means to communicate values, experiences, dreams and aspirations to succeeding generations.

Storyvalues is a modern expression of this ancient tradition. Using recorded versions of multicultural folktales as a point of entry, the program expands the communicative value of the oral tradition through use of interactive online media, graphics, video, art, music and follow up materials that explore the content of stories to meet modern educational requirements.

Stories as a Foundation for Language, Literacy and Learning

Storytelling is a cornerstone of literacy and an essential function of language. Through stories we communicate individual insight and perspective; we give voice to archetypal situations and characters that speak to the unification of human experience that underlies personal and cultural diversity.

Storytelling can encompass the range of human experience, from the simple recount of a day's events to the creation of all that exists. The oral tradition is thus an excellent vehicle with which to explore language, toward the goal of achieving literacy, self - knowledge, empathy toward others and the ability to effectively communicate.

Toward this end, **Storyvalues** embodies and enhances the oral tradition of storytelling and provides a wide variety of opportunities for creative interaction with the rich content that is contained within classic multicultural folktales and myths.

Language skills students need to become literate in the four strands of learning:

1. Oral Communication
2. Reading
3. Writing
4. Media Literacy

Storyvalues supports Language and Literacy education requirements in the following ways:

1. Oral Communication

As noted, **Storyvalues** is founded upon the ancient tradition of oral storytelling. The program models the effective use of language through recorded multicultural stories, with expert narration enhanced with culturally accurate music and sound effects. The recordings excel at inspiring creative visualization through the narration and music, assisting in the development of strong listening skills, an essential component of oral communication.

Each story includes extensive classroom (and home) follow up materials that provide text-to-text, text-to-self and text-to-world applications. This section of the program provides educators with a way to explore stories in relation to students' personal and peer group experience through story-based inferences and talking points related to character attributes, cultural information and creative application. Emphasis is placed upon leading students to develop and express their own point of view, using the story as a point of entry.

2. Reading

As a multicultural story-based resource, **Storyvalues** can be used to familiarize and teach about traditional literature from around the world, thus helping students to acquire an understanding of the richness and diversity of world literature and culture.

Through creative use of the recordings, follow ups and interactive media contained within the program, educators can provide students with a *positive interactive experience* that can inspire students to explore the world of reading. **Toward this end, a ‘suggested reading’ list of books accompany each story, as part of the classroom and home follow up sections.**

The interactive website provides numerous opportunities for students to read and learn about story related character and cultural attributes. Narration is available on each interactive web page, students may choose to ‘read along’ with the text that appears on each page. The website also features graphics, photographs and videos that support the story, thus modeling an effective use of visuals to support text.

Finally, written versions of each story are included. These can be read individually or as a class, by the students or by teachers or parents.

3. Writing

Storyvalues is not a ‘writing program’, per se. However, the program does provide a wealth of story-based materials (recordings, follow ups and interactive website features) that educators can use to explore ideas, content, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency and language conventions with their students.

Many educators have used **Storyvalues** as a foundation for class writing and drama projects, or for multimedia projects in which students write their own versions of stories and express their creativity in a wide range of formats.

4. Media Literacy

As an interactive multimedia online resource, **Storyvalues** allows students to experience the ancient tradition of storytelling in a way that resonates with current culture and technology, using a variety media and creative disciplines: recordings (featuring narration, culturally accurate music and sound effects), the written word, as well as extensive graphics, motion design, video and photography.

Creative interaction with new media is also supported by providing a ‘toolbox’ of web-based graphic, video and sound files that accompany each story. These may be used in class by students for video, audio and web projects.

Summary

Storyvalues is a storytelling based interactive program that provides educators and parents with a linguistically rich set of materials, all of which aid in the development of student language skills. The materials present diverse points of view, introduce new words and ideas, contain opportunities for educators to employ comprehension strategies (identifying ‘the big idea’, activating prior knowledge, making inferences and extending understanding to meet personal and peer group experience, etc).

As noted by Curriculum Services Canada, **Storyvalues** materials also provide support for ELL and ESL students and their families, helping to increase literacy and strengthen and unify diverse school communities.

