

JANE STENSON

Author, Educator, Storyteller, Teaching Artist

specializing in school residencies

in narrative writing and personal narrative,
learning to *tell* folktales,
teaching core subjects through storytelling.

Finally, I am full time storyteller and teaching artist! What took me so long? University professor and classroom teaching has always been interesting (1963 – 2010) and now I find those years helped me understand the children and adults I meet as a storyteller-in-residence and teaching artist. Local schools are keeping me busy with residencies and performances.

I co-chair the YES! Special Interest Group for the National Storytelling Network, and we have produced two booklets about storytelling and the Common Core Standards, which takes each standard and writes a way storytelling explores that standard. These are available for downloading to all on the YES! website. Further, YES! was invited to present at the fall conference on U.S. Department of Education's Art in Education and give a webinar for/to the DoEd, which I accomplished in March 2013.

In August 2013 I traveled to the Kennedy Center to begin their year long program in professional development as a teaching artist. The Kennedy residency template differs from and is more extensive than what is usually required for school residencies.

A certified classroom teacher and graduate professor in education since 1986, I have practical and theoretical understanding of child development, experience teaching children and parents, and experience teaching education courses to graduate students. Prior to that experience, I taught at the high school level and at the pre-school level – many levels of teaching! During those years, what became clear was the role of story in transmitting knowledge and enjoyment of the content(s) to be taught. By the late 90s most all of my classes were based on story and storytelling – mine and my students.

While at National-Louis University, my load included producing the Betty Weeks Storytelling Conference for Educators & Evening Concerts. I selected workshops that encouraged the many ways storytelling can be applied in educational settings...I believe that to be the beginning of the three award winning books I co-authored with Sherry Norfolk and Diane Williams: *The Storytelling Classroom: Applications across the Curriculum* (2006), *Literacy Development in the Storytelling Classroom* (2009), and *Social Studies in the Storytelling Classroom: Exploring our Cultural Voices and Perspectives* (2012). I am currently working on a book (with Sherry Norfolk and Lyn Ford) to address science curricula in elementary classrooms emphasized in many of today's schools.

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