

Storytelling

Introduction

The telling of stories is an essential part of the Kea and Cub programme and you will generally find this activity in the National Programmes.

- Storytelling can form an important part of everyday teaching.
- Early teaching consists mainly of stories.
- Children of this age love well-told stories at appropriate times.
- Stories should fit the situation and time and not be beyond the age level of the listener.
- Stories are best TOLD and not READ but reading is better than nothing.
- Girls and boys enjoy telling their own stories.
- Storytelling is a means of communication between leaders and the youth members.



Storytellers are made

Kea and Cub Leaders fall into two categories:

- those who enjoy telling yarns;
- those who are quite sure that they can never tell a yarn and that this aspect of the Kea and Cub programme is not for them.

It is reassuring to know that a good 'Storyteller' is made and not born. All leaders should take part in this experience and give it their best shot.

The wise Kea or Cub Leader will use stories to:

- put a finishing touch to a marvellous day;
- discipline without pointing the finger;
- direct thoughts to a bigger world;
- entertain and share FUN;
- help give thanks and further emphasise Duty to God;
- teach;
- complement other elements of the National Programme.

Preparing the Story

Here are the steps for preparing to tell a story.

1. Select a story that appeals.
2. Read right through making sure that you have the general scheme and atmosphere.
3. Read again noting characters, place, plot and situations.
4. Get the start and end of the story right.
5. Make a few key notes (bullet points are best).
6. Review the story using your notes.
7. Live the story as you learn it.
8. Tell the story to yourself, or to someone else if possible - do this aloud.
9. Plan exactly how to end the story.

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Two further essentials

YOU:

- Be yourself.
- Arouse interest.
- Be animated.
- Be sincere.
- Be enthusiastic.
- Be yourself.
- Pause - this is a subtle way of building up suspense.
- When finished - stop talking.

THE AUDIENCE:

- Don't start until you have silence.
 - Don't be sidetracked.
 - Make sure that
 - Keas and Cubs are seated comfortably and that they can see your face and you can see theirs. If one person is inattentive, tell the story directly to them for a while.
 - Deal with minor disturbances. Pause until quiet is restored.
 - Make yourself at one with the audience.
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It's the thought that counts

The THOUGHT of your story should always be greater and more meaningful than the words you use to express It. AVOID being over emphatic or over dramatic beyond the point of sincerity.

Strive for a unity between the storyteller and the audience which is the secret of holding the interest of those who are listening.

No one ever told a story successfully that they did not enjoy themselves. You cannot treat storytelling as just another job. The story, first and foremost, must appeal to the teller. In some ways like the Keas and Cubs we must be able to identify with the story.

Children don't change, just the media

With the arrival of TV and DVDs, the art of storytelling has fallen into disuse for we no longer have to amuse children with pictures painted in the mind by the human voice. Kea and Cub Leaders have the opportunity to keep storytelling alive.

It's thrilling to see children sitting spellbound, their bodies and minds enmeshed in the story. And it's great tool for developing young minds.

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