



The Storytelling/Storyacting Process of Vivian Gussin Paley

1. Set up a story table with paper, crayons, etc. Even just a clipboard works!
2. Choose a scribe- someone who will write down children's stories.
3. Tell the children that the storytelling/storyacting center is open.
4. The scribe writes down exactly what the child says. Clarifying questions are o.k, but only the children's own words are recorded.
5. When the storyteller is done, the scribe should underline each character (this can include trees, cars, rainbows...whatever images make it into the story).
6. Act out stories the same day they are dictated.
7. Bring all the children into the "story circle;" a "stage" marked with masking tape is inside the large circle.
8. The author of the first story joins the teacher and picks which character s/he wants to be. The teacher then chooses other children who will play the rest of the roles and they enter the stage area.
9. The teacher gives the children a cue that the storyplay is about to begin (something as simple as a clap pattern, or "3, 2, 1, Story Play Begins, ACTION!").
10. The teacher then reads the story as the children act it out on the stage.
11. When the story is over, the teacher says "The End," or some other phrase that cues the children that this story is over.
12. The actors and author return to their seats. The next author is called up and the process repeats itself.

**Adapted from the work of Vivian Paley by Dr. Stephanie Goloway*