

FACES of Literacy

A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Storytelling In Celebration Of
30 Years Of Roots And Resiliency

What is this?

Storytelling

Fox Valley Literacy is celebrating our 30th anniversary with a year of storytelling! Fox Valley Literacy's history is the story of our students and tutors. Throughout 2020, we want you to tell us your part of that story. You can tell it through written or spoken word, music, dance, visual art, or however you feel you can best express yourself! This workbook is designed to help you tell your story. Join us for one of our storytelling workshops, make it part of your regular tutoring lesson, or work through this workbook on your own.

Roots & Resiliency

Our theme for 2020 is Roots & Resiliency. We are asking you to think about the things that made you the person you are today--including things outside of Fox Valley Literacy! Your roots are where you come from, the history, practices or community that connects you to your ancestors, culture, and hopes. Resiliency is the ability to grow and flourish in and after adversity by mobilizing resources, leaning into

your community and values, and drawing from personal determination.

Don't worry, we have prompts to help you think of a story!

Faces of Literacy

The year of storytelling all leads up to our Faces of Literacy celebration in October! At the celebration, we will highlight several student and tutor stories to share with the community. Student and tutor stories will be collected in a printed book.

We have also invited community artists to partner with individual students to develop original pieces of art for the celebration. If you are interested in working with a community artist, talk to a staff member!

How to use this workbook

1. Choose one or more questions to explore your roots and/or resiliency or write your own question
2. Go through the workbook steps 1-7 to develop your story
 - a. Feel free to do the workbook in your language and then work from there in English
 - b. Attend a workshop
 - c. With your student and/or tutor
3. Use workbook steps 8-11 to refine and revise your story
4. Practice with staff
5. Submission deadlines:

For the chance to partner with a community artist: April 1

To be included in our Faces of Literacy Celebration: June 1

Please submit a draft of your story by email to Briony at

bsmith@fvlc.net



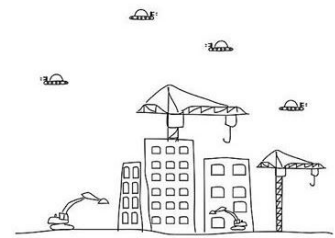
Thanks to Nik Shier at HeartBrain for the Storytelling Workbook. For more about their writing workshops and trainings, visit HeartBrain.org.

Questions to explore your roots:

- When and/or where do you feel a strong sense of belonging?
- What stories from your life would you want your grandchildren to know?
- Tell us the story of your birth.
- What does it mean to be a good ancestor?
- What does home mean to you?
- What practices, joys, sorrows, beliefs, vocations have been past down through generations in your family or community?
- What food, objects, or clothing items are meaningful to you?
- What is something you inherited?
- What experience(s) or people had the strongest role making you who you are today?
- Write your own:

it isn't what we left behind
that breaks me
it's what we could've built
had we stayed

- rupi kaur



Question(s) I choose:

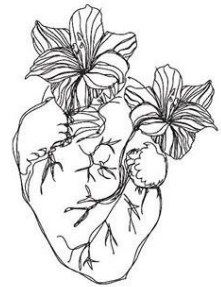
What stories could I tell about this?

Questions to explore your resiliency:

- When did you face a challenge, and how did you overcome it?
- What event has caused you pain, and how have you changed because of it?
- What strength have you discovered in yourself or your community that surprised you?
- What do you hope to pass down to your children that will help them during hardship?
- Who in your life has been a hero for you?
- When have you been a hero?
- What did your parents and/or grandparents teach you about survival and living fully?
- What brings you joy?
- What have you already healed, and what are you still healing?
- Write your own:

what is stronger
than the human heart
which shatters over and over
and still lives

- rupi kaur



Question(s) I choose:

What stories could I tell about this?



Fox Valley Literacy Storytelling Workbook 2020

1

Know your audience

Different audiences will relate to different things.

Know who you're talking to. Always have them in mind to help you decide how to tell your story.

- Students
- Tutors
- Staff
- Board Members
- Donors
- Funders
- Community Members
- Friends
- Family
- Other Community Organizations

Who is the audience you'll be speaking to?

Do you know anything about the members of the audience?

What audience do you want to share your story with?

2

Set the scene

Help your audience to see and feel the situation at the beginning of your story.

Where does your story begin?

What does it look like? What does it smell like? What does it sound like?
What does it feel like? What does it sound like?

Where does your story end?

What does it look like? What does it smell like? What does it sound like?
What does it feel like? What does it taste like?

What changes from the beginning
to the end?

i thank the universe
for taking
everything it has taken
and giving to me
everything it is giving

balance - rupi kaur



3

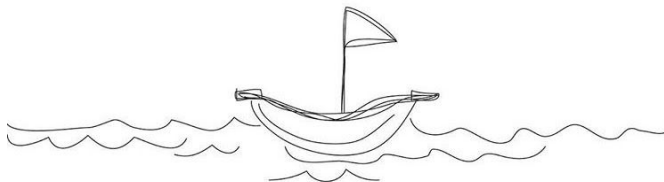
Create a connection

It's important to connect with your audience throughout your story.

How can you get your audience's attention?

they have no idea what it's like
to lose home at the risk of
never finding home again
to have your entire life
split between two lands and
become the bridge between two countries

immigrant - rupi kaur



How does your story relate to or
affect your audience?

What do you want your audience to feel while they listen to your story?

Is there anything your audience might not understand about your story?
Why?

4

Make it personal

This is your story and it is an important story.

Why does this story matter to you?

Do you know other stories like yours?

What makes your story unique?

Does the story you're telling belong to anyone else too?

Who does not want you to tell your story? Why?

Who wants you to tell your story? Why?

5

Define your Purpose

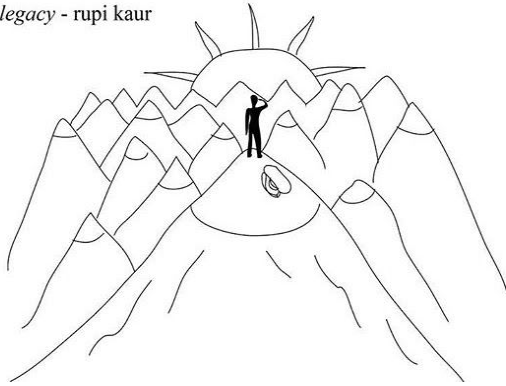
What do you want the audience to feel, think, or do after they hear your story?

What is the purpose of telling your story?

What do you want your audience to feel after hearing your story?

i stand
on the sacrifices
of a million women before me
thinking
what can i do
to make this mountain taller
so the women after me
can see farther

legacy - rupi kaur



What do you want your audience to think after hearing your story?

What do you want your audience to do after hearing your story?

6

Storytelling Beyond words

Use tools to help you tell your story. Do you have pictures you'd like to share? Are there similar pictures on the internet? Do you have a basket at home like you're describing?



Storytelling formats to explore

We suggest you begin with a verbal format and then add visual formats if you'd like.

If you're interested in visual options, talk to staff - we might have resources!

Verbal Formats

- First person narration
 - Third person narration
 - Conversation
 - Poetry
 - Present tense, past tense, future tense
 - Fiction inspired by your life
 - Autobiography
 - Biography of someone important to you
 - Folktale from your culture
 - Song
 - Your ideas:
-

Visual Formats

- Drawing
 - Painting
 - Photography
 - Collage
 - Dance
 - Crafts
 - Video
 - Comic
 - Your ideas:
-

Which formats are you most interested in?

8

Keep it short

The appropriate length for your story depends on who your audience is.

Aim for one page of writing or less or 2-3 minutes of video or audio.

What doesn't need to be included in your story?

Share your story with others and listen to their feedback.

What do people want to hear more of?

What do people say isn't needed for this story? Do you agree?

What do people say is distracting in this story? Do you agree?

What absolutely has to be in this story?

9

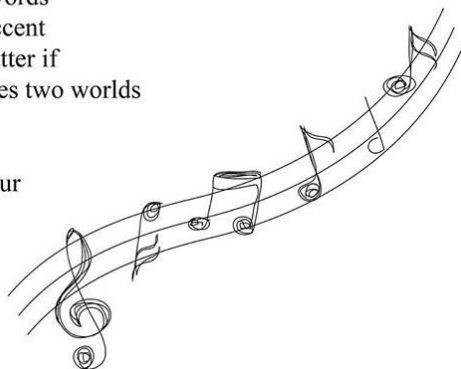
Be clear

Your audience doesn't have all the knowledge you do. If you're talking about something they might not understand or have experienced, explain it in detail.

Make a list of words in your story to translate, describe, or define:

my voice
is the offspring
of two countries colliding
what is there to be ashamed of
if english
and my mother tongue
made love
my voice
is her father's words
and mother's accent
what does it matter if
my mouth carries two worlds

accent - rupi kaur



10

Practice telling the story

Every story gets better each time it is told.

Tell your story to:

- A Student
- A Volunteer
- A member of staff
- A member of the board of directors
- A friend
- A family member
- Someone in the community
- To yourself in the mirror
- While recording yourself
- A Stuffed animal
- A plant
- An animal
- Water

11

What are you feeling?

Check in with yourself while you create and tell your story.

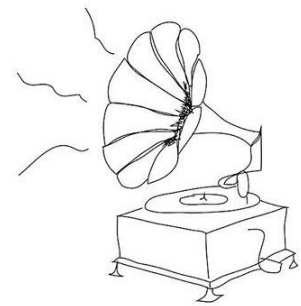
What are you feeling?

Is there any part that you are uncomfortable sharing with certain audiences?

Are there any risks to sharing parts of your story?

together we are an endless conversation

- rupi kaur



What are the benefits of sharing your story?
