

Program Name: Oral Tradition, Your Family's Story

Artist: Susansylvia Scott

## Special Requirements:

Classroom desks moved to create a presentation space.

## Special Points of Interest:

We request that each age group have their own workshop to ensure developmentally-appropriate practices.

## Workshop Description

Oral tradition, with Master Teaching artist and storyteller Susansylvia Scott, will give inspiration to children about their culture, family history, and background. The workshop increases pride in the ownership of their family and community. The gathering and telling of a story from an elder will enhance creative language, organizational skills, and focusing abilities.

The students will learn to understand what oral tradition is and how to encourage a family member or friend to open up and share a life story. They will also learn how to retell that story to their peers. To do this project, they will practice

inquiry, listening intently, ordering the story in their mind and retelling.



## Educational Objectives & Standards

Students will:

- Retell a life story to their peers.
- Practice inquiry, and listening skills.
- Understand oral tradition.
- Practice focusing skills.

CCSS.ELA/ LITERACY.

- RL.3.2.3.4.6
- RL.4.1.2.3.6
- RL.5.2.4.6
- RL.6.2.3.5.6
- RL.7.3.5.6
- RL.8.2.3.4
- RL.9-10.2.3.5
- RL.12-13.3.4.5

## Artist Bio: Susansylva Scott

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Master Teaching Artist  
Susansylva Scott is a creative and innovative storyteller. She holds a Master of Arts in Theater from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Two of her mentors are Vincent Dowling, of the Abbey Theater in Dublin, Ireland and John Houseman, a teacher at the Julliard School of Drama and featured in the *Paper Chase*.

Based on her experiences on the stage and screen, Susansylva

specializes in unique and creative audience participation. She is also a successful private tutor for children with dyslexia and learning challenges.

Susansylva's workshops, residencies, and master classes for teachers and students emphasize reading comprehension and creative writing. She is the Lighton Prize winner for Teaching Excellence in 2006.

### List of Resources:

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#### Books:

[Children Tell Stories: Teaching and Using Storytelling in the Classroom](#) by Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss

[Telling Tales: Storytelling in the Family](#) by Gail de Vos & Merle Harris & Celia Barker Lottridge

#### Online Resources:

<http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/echo07.lan.stories.lporaltrad/storytelling-oral-traditions/>

### Vocabulary

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**Oral Tradition:** Oral lore is cultural material, stories and traditions passed on from one generation to another orally.

**Folk Tale:** A story that is passed down orally from generation to generation.

**Fable:** A story that teaches a lesson, and often has animal characters that speak and act like people.

**Legend:** A story that is handed down, often based on fact but not entirely true.

**Culture:** The way of life, ideas, customs and traditions of a group of people.

**Storytelling:** The telling of folk tales, fairy tales and personal experiences.

**Elder:** An older person. Older people may be called "elders" as a respectful term.

**Personal History:** Personal experience stories may include a family's personal history. They may also include larger cultural history, such as traditions, or even major world events.

### Post-Workshop Activities

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1. Prior to the workshop the students should begin to think about what elder in their life could be the source for a story. If a student doesn't feel comfortable with any family member, they may choose a friend. It is best if the student has a choice in mind before the workshop begins.
2. After the workshop the class could visit a senior center and ask for stories. They could then tell, write and talk about the stories and the cultures of those individuals.

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022  
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