

# Storytelling Ideas for Developing Comprehension

This appendix contains stories that emphasize specific storytelling techniques for teachers to use with their children—sound story, chalk talk, origami story, and prop story.

## Sound Story

### Sample Story: “The Grouchy Queen and the Happy King” (adapted from an anonymous tale)

*When the underlined words are mentioned, the following sounds are made:*

Queen Grace the Grouch: Grrrrr.

King Happy Herman: Ha-ha-ha.

Whistling Wilbur: Whistling sound high to low.

Singing Sam: La-la-la (first few notes of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”).

Tired Tim: Ahhhh (yawning sound).

Lively Lorraine: Ah ha.

Once upon a time there was a queen named Grace the Grouch. She had this name because she growled most of the time. Queen Grace the Grouch was married to King Happy Herman. He was called Happy Herman because he laughed most of the time. Together they made a perfect couple. Queen Grace the Grouch and King Happy Herman had three sons. The first son’s name was Whistling Wilbur. He had this name because he whistled almost all the time. The second son’s name was Singing Sam. He had this name because most of the time he sang. The third son’s name was Tired Tim. He had this name because most of the time he was sleeping, and when he was awake he was doing almost nothing but yawning.

There was a princess from the next kingdom named Lively Lorraine. She couldn't sit still for a moment. She bounced around from dawn till dusk looking for things to do. Each time the princess would find a job to be done, she'd lift her hand in the air and say, "Ah ha." When most people spoke of Lorraine, they could not help but say, "Ah ha."

Lively Lorraine decided that she'd like to marry. She knew of Queen Grace the Grouch and her husband, King Happy Herman. She also knew about their three sons, Whistling Wilbur, Singing Sam, and Tired Tim. Lively Lorraine decided to take a look at the three princes to see if one might be a suitable future king for her. She saddled her horse one day and away she galloped to the kingdom over the hill.

When she arrived, she was greeted by Queen Grace the Grouch and her husband, King Happy Herman. Lively Lorraine decided to stay a while to get to know each prince and to see if there was one that best suited her.

First, Lively Lorraine played tennis with Whistling Wilbur. But he whistled so much throughout the game that Lively Lorraine could not concentrate and kept missing the ball.

The next day, Lorraine went sailing with Singing Sam. Sam was nice, but he never stopped singing. Instead of talking, he'd find an appropriate song and sing what he had to say. For a while it was fun, but Lorraine tired of it quickly.

Lively Lorraine felt sad. She decided that she would not meet the prince of her dreams here in this kingdom. But suddenly, Tired Tim came yawning down the garden path. Lorraine took one look at him and said, "Ah Ha." Somehow Lively Lorraine and Tired Tim made the perfect couple—something like Queen Grace the Grouch and King Happy Herman.

So Lively Lorraine and Tired Tim trotted off to the kingdom over the hill to be married. Of course, they lived happily ever after.

# Chalk Talk

## Sample Story: “The Surprise in the Playhouse” (adapted from an anonymous tale)

*In this story, the underlined words indicate when to draw.*

There was once a little girl named Lori, and there is an L for Lori. Lori found a great big empty refrigerator box one day outside a neighbor’s house; it was left for the garbage man to pick up. Lori decided that the refrigerator box would make a terrific playhouse. She dragged the box home and set it in her backyard, and it looked like this.



The house needed a lot of work. The first thing Lori did was to cut out two squares to make windows, like this. Then she drew some pretty shutters that looked like these.



When she finished with the windows, she cut out a door just like this.



Lori wanted a way to get in and out of her house from the back. She thought about it a while and decided to make the back all open so it would feel bigger inside and a lot of light could shine in. To do this, she cut the sides of the box, on both sides, down the middle and pulled the flaps open. It made the house look like this.



Lori found some tiny garden fencing in her garage. She put the fence in front of her playhouse and planted seeds behind the fence.



Now that her house was finished, she thought she’d go get her friend Linda. That’s another L for Linda.



Linda lived across the street and down the block. So Lori skipped across the street and went down the block to Linda’s house. She went to the front door and rang the bell.



Linda’s mother came to the door and said that Linda was upstairs in her room playing. So Lori went upstairs and asked Linda if she would like to see her new playhouse.



Linda said yes, so the two girls hurried down the stairs. Linda forgot her sweater so she ran back up again to get it. Now the girls were ready to go. They went across the street and were on their way back to Lori’s house.



Lori stopped a minute and bent down to look at a caterpillar. Linda looked, too. The girls got up and hurried along. Then they pretended they were bunnies and jumped up and down as they went. Lori fell down and Linda helped her up.



# Origami Story

## Sample Story: *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni (2005)

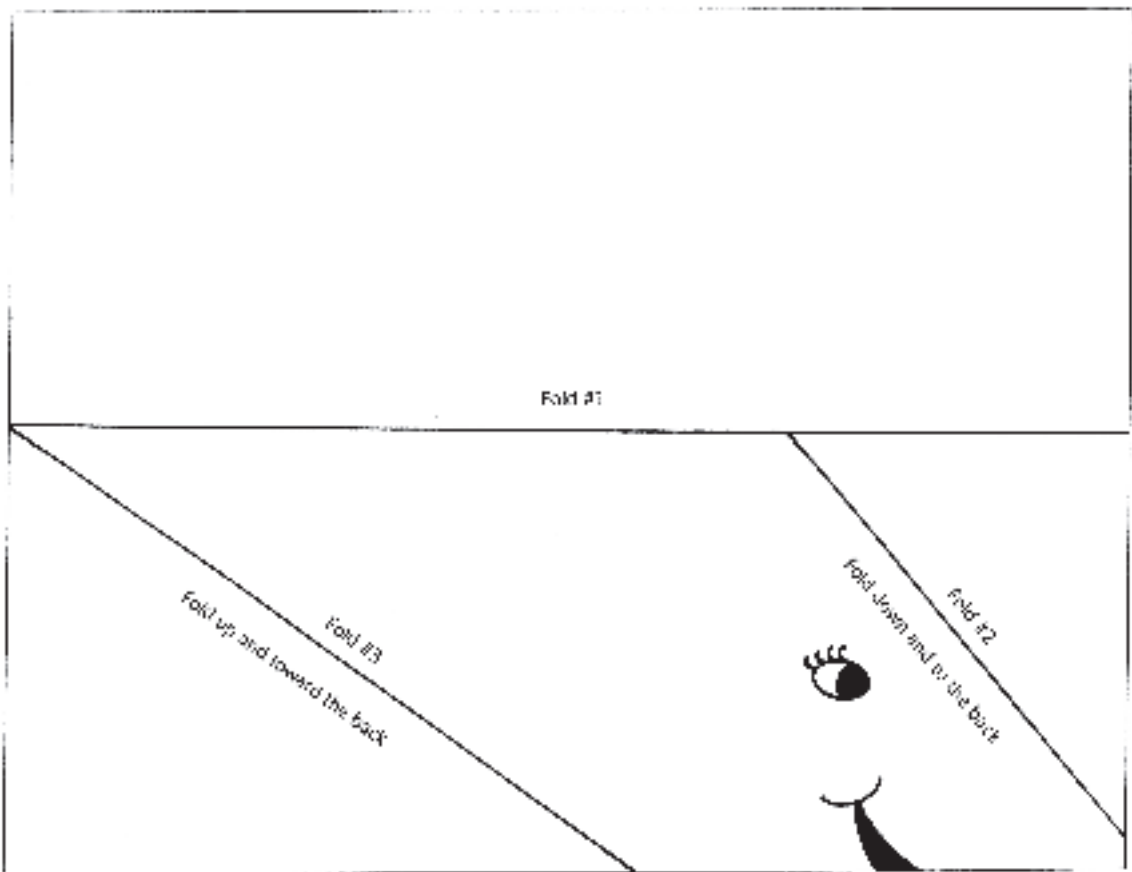
*A little black fish escapes being eaten by a giant tuna and finds comfort and safety in numbers with his new friends. Origami technique: Fold paper into the shape of a fish.*

## Activity

1. Practice folding origami figures until you feel confident with the technique and can fold and tell the story smoothly.
2. While telling the story, fold the paper into the main character or object and display it until the story is ended.

## Origami Fish

Enlarge as needed. Fold as indicated in order by number.



# Prop Story

## Sample Story: “The Little Round Red House” (adapted from an anonymous tale)

School had ended for the summer. Stephanie was wandering around the house trying to find something to do. She colored for a while, cut and pasted, and looked at some books, but nothing seemed like much fun. She looked for her mother. Her mother was at her desk, busy with some important work.

Stephanie said to her mother, “What can I do today? I just can’t seem to find anything.”

Her mother thought for a while and said, “Stephanie, I know what you can do. Go outside for a walk and see if you can find a little round red house that has no windows and no doors, a chimney on top, and a star inside.”

Stephanie wasn’t really sure what her mother was talking about, but since it sounded interesting she decided to give it a try. First, Stephanie walked down Elm Street. Then she tried Heritage Lane, but not one house fit the description her mother had given. She could not find a little round red house that had no windows and no doors, a chimney on top, and a star inside. All the houses had windows and doors. None of the houses was even red.

When she was about to give up and go home, she met her friend Darren. He was looking for something to do. Stephanie asked him to help her with her search. The two children decided to ask Mr. and Mrs. Mandel if they knew of this little round red house. Mr. and Mrs. Mandel owned the candy shop, and they knew everything about the town in which Stephanie and Darren lived. If anyone would know about such a strange house, it would be the Mandels.

Stephanie ran into the candy shop. She immediately asked Mrs. Mandel if she knew of a little round red house that had no windows and no doors, a chimney on top, and a star inside. Mrs. Mandel thought for a while and then said, “Stephanie, go down to the shady pond where the wind blows through the trees. Sit down a while to enjoy the summer day and the breeze rippling through the trees, and maybe you will find what you are looking for.”

Darren and Stephanie hurried down to the shady pond. It was a long walk and the day was hot, so they were happy to sit down and rest by the pond in the shade of the trees. Before long, a lovely cool breeze blew

through the branches of the trees. The leaves rustled, and something fell out of one of the trees.

Whatever fell bounded first on Stephanie's head and then fell to the ground. It had split into two pieces. Stephanie picked up the two pieces and put them back together again. Then she began to laugh. "My goodness," she said, "I've found it! This is the little round red house that has no windows and no doors, a chimney on top, and a star inside." Hungry from their experience, Darren and Stephanie each took a piece and enjoyed the apple [*show cut apple*] that had fallen from the tree.



Cut apple on the dotted line.