

Word of Mouth Stories n3d, Inc.

Our goal is to provide storytelling opportunities that enhance literacy and the spoken word. I provide African American folktales. Storytelling is a powerful tool to help youth learn life lessons; students also gain knowledge of historical events that shape our country and our lives. The power of storytelling allows students to use their skills to evaluate the ideas and experiences, to build knowledge and formulate conclusions about making the right choices and informed decisions. Storytelling is also a valuable listening skill that prepares students for real life experiences K-12 and beyond. It enables them recognize and be able to use formal English in their writing and speaking experiences. Lastly, storytelling is a format to encourage students to express themselves through language. The impact of storytelling helps students give voice to their imagination, creative skills and ideas.

STORIES & THE LESSONS THEY TEACH

K – 4th Grade

- **Anansi & His Six Sons** – Anansi the spider gets in trouble while away from home. His six sons who all possess different talents set out to find him. **Lesson:** Re-enforces the concept that when we work together we can achieve much more than working alone.
- **Scat the Cat**- Scat wants to be different. So he changes his color and encounters challenges being in a skin other than who he was meant to be. **Lesson:** Be yourself and love yourself for who you are.
- **Jabuti the Tortoise** – A Tortoise wants to fly to a festival in the sky with the birds. But turtles can't fly; so a pretend friend offers to take him on his journey. **Lesson:** Beware of those pretending to be your friend.
- **Tortoise's Dream** – A Tortoise dreams of a magical tree somewhere in the jungle. His friends help him find the tree by using magic words that only the wisest woman in the village can share. **Lesson:** Dreams can become reality and lead you to wonderful places.

5th – 8th Grade

- **Harambe & Sikulu** by the Zambezee River- A Hippo and a Spider assist an old woman by the river, when other animals ignore her pleas for help. **Lesson:** This is the story of The Good Samaritan which teaches us that helping others is the right thing to do.

5th – 12th grade

- **Follow the Drinking Gourd** – The drinking gourd is symbol of the constellations that form the big and little dippers in the sky. A carpenter goes from plantation to plantation teaching slaves a song that secretly guides them to freedom as they follow the North Star. **Lesson:** Learning about the constellations, survival skills and about people helping people in the name of freedom.
- **Freedom Bird** – A beautiful bird known as the Freedom Bird, appears in the forest. A farmer tries to get rid of the bird only to discover that the bird cannot be defeated. **Lesson:** You can't keep Freedom down.
- **The People Could Fly** – A mythical story about slaves using their magic, dreams and hopes to help them fly away to freedom. **Lesson:** Never give up and to believe in your dreams.
- **Moussa's Son** – A coming of age story that deals with the rights of passage as a young boy comes into manhood and the decisions he must make. **Lesson:** Love is an important part of the decisions that govern our lives and actions.

"DO YOU KNOW" – For all age groups.

Using pictures of various African American historical figures I share simple facts about these pioneers and their contribution to humanity. Photos include: Ella Fitzgerald, Muhamad Ali, Ruby Bridges, Henry Morrison, Angela Davis and others.