

Appreciating Stories

You may find that your students' literary understanding is enhanced if you help them think about their own stories and the stories friends and family members tell. Consider using one or more of the following activities to help students expand their appreciation for the power of stories in their lives.

Telling Stories

- Tell the class a personal story. It might be funny, scary, or sad. It could be a story from your childhood or something that happened on your way to work.
- Ask the students to turn to a classmate and tell a story to one another.
- Ask if anybody heard a story that they think the whole class might enjoy.

Collecting Stories

- Have students ask an adult to tell them a childhood story that they could share with the class.
- Have students ask an older friend or sibling to tell them a childhood story that they could share with the class.
- Have students identify a favorite story from literature and share it with the class.

Discussion

- After the class has enjoyed several of these activities, have them think and talk about what makes a good story. You may wish to list responses on chart paper to hang in the classroom.