



Storytelling Arts of Indiana
Transforming everyday life

Teacher's Guide: About the Tellers

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Celestine Bloomfield

Types of Stories:

- Personal and family stories
- Hoosier stories
- World folktales

School Performance Schedule:

Performance Type	Day	Date	Starts	Ends	Appears With
Student (primary)	Friday	Sept. 23	10:00 am	11:15 am	Donald Davis
Student (middle/high)	Friday	Sept. 23	11:45am	1:00 pm	Donald Davis

Background:



Celestine Bloomfield grew up in Gary, Indiana surrounded by family members who worked in the steel mills. She listened to her father recite Paul Lawrence Dunbar and Sir William Cullen Bryant. After pursuing degrees in theater and library science, Celestine was suddenly telling stories and loving it. In 1977, she officially began to call herself a storyteller. She was featured at the First Annual Hoosier Storytelling Festival in 1988 and has regularly made appearances since that first year. She was commissioned by Storytelling Arts of Indiana and the Indiana Historical Society to research, develop and tell the story of "Steel Stories: Tales from Da Region." In November 2010 she will

debut a new story *Zora and Me*. She has also received a Teacher Creativity Grant from Lilly Endowment. Currently she is the media specialist at Indian Creek Elementary in Lawrence Township.

Selected Works:

Stories from the Heartland, CD

Carmen Agra Deedy

Types of Stories:

- Family and personal stories of growing up Cuban-American

Family Performance Schedule:

Performance Type	Day	Date	Starts	Ends	Appears With
Family	Saturday	Sept. 24	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	Donald Davis

Background:

“Carmen Agra Deedy is a gifted storyteller and author who, with an amazing ability to slip from Southern drawl to rapid-fire Spanish in one sentence, recounts her own childhood in a Cuban family that fled their native country as refugees after Castro’s revolution. Her stories of her mother and father and their assimilation (or lack thereof) into Southern American culture as residents of Decatur, Georgia, are simultaneously hilarious and poignant. Her storytelling is very energetic and, at times, politically incorrect. She usually has me laughing uproariously in one moment and dabbing at my eyes in the next.” - <http://www.hopeisthewordblog.com/>

Web Sites:

- <http://www.carmendeedy.com>
- <http://www.vsra.org/Authors/deedy.htm>
- <http://www.beautifulmartina.com>
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Selected Works:

- *14 Cows for America*, picture book
- *Growing Up Cuban in Decatur, Georgia*, CD

Donald Davis

Types of Stories:

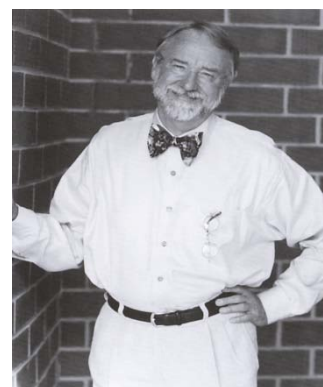
- Family and personal stories.
- Traditional Appalachian tales.

School Performance Schedule:

Performance Type	Day	Date	Starts	Ends	Appears With
Student (Primary)	Friday	Sept 23	10:00 am	11:15 am	Celestine Bloomfield
Student (Middle/High)	Friday	Sept 23	11:45 am	1:00 pm	Celestine Bloomfield
Family	Saturday	Sept 24	2:00 pm	3:00 pm	Carmen Agra Deedy

Background:

Donald Davis grew up in the mountains of North Carolina during the 1950's and 1960's, roaming the hills of his grandparents' farm and listening to stories. "Storytelling" was unheard of then because stories were just a natural part of life—something people did while they snapped beans or fixed a fence. "I didn't learn stories," Donald says, "I just absorbed them." Fairy tales, simple and silly Jack tales, scary mountain lore, and nourishing true-to-life stories of his own neighbors and kin helped forge his own sense of self and later, a new profession. After earning a Masters in Divinity at Duke University, Donald became a Methodist pastor and delighted his congregations with humorous tales of his own childhood misadventures. This led to storytelling at festivals and after 20 years in the ministry, he became a professional teller full-time. A featured teller at the Smithsonian Institution and the World's Fair Donald has performed at festivals throughout the country and the world. He has been guest host of National Public Radio's, Good Evening, and has produced 23 recordings of his work and authored nine books, including the notable, Writing as a Second Language. Honored by his peers with the National Storytelling Network's Circle of Excellence Award, he is widely regarded as an American master of personal and family stories and master teacher of storytelling. His traditional and true-to-life stories leave listeners of all ages "limp with laughter" and "filled with the goodness of a true tale."



Web Sites:

Visit www.ddavisstoryteller.com

Selected Works:

- *Barking at a Fox-fur Coat*, Book
- *Big-Screen Drive In Theater*, CD
- *Braces*, CD

Niall de Burca

Types of Stories:

- Irish folktales, myths and legends

School Performance Schedule:

Performance Type	Day	Date	Starts	Ends
Family	Friday	Dec. 3	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

Background:

Much like the pied piper, Niall de Burca will cast a spell on young and old alike. He combines tremendous energy and humor with audience participation to tell the Irish tales. Even the most reluctant child cannot help to be entranced with his interactive approach and zany sense of humor

Niall was raised in the wild west of Ireland; a region steeped in Celtic myth and legend. A tradition bearer at ease telling in both Gaelic and English, Niall is a familiar figure in Ireland telling in theatre, radio and television. Using his voice with a craftsman skill, Niall tells the old stories with wonderful charm and superb timing. He has toured the world, including Finland, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Iran, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Argentina.



Web Sites:

- www.storyteller.ie
- **Listen to a Niall telling a story**
http://www.kidzmusic.com/cart/Show_items_cat.asp?MainCatID=41

Selected Works:

- *Shapeshifter*. CD
- *Mr. Gutenberg and Other Tales*. CD

Antonio Rocha

Types of Stories:

- Folktales
- Brazilian and African Folktales

School Performance Schedule:

Performance Type	Day	Date	Starts	Ends	Appears With
Student (Middle/High)	Friday	January 21	10:00 a.m.	11:15 p.m.	Bob Sander
Student (Primary)	Friday	January 21	11:45 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	Bob Sander
Family	Friday	January 21	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	

Background:

Combining the elements of storytelling, mime and physical comedy, Antonio Rocha, a native of Brazil, leaves audiences spellbound by the myths, the absurd and the poetic. His physical comedy – with its exaggerated movements and facial muggings – is very similar to the antics of comedy shows.

In 1988, Antonio received a grant to come to the USA to perform and deepen his mime skills with Master Tony Montanaro. Since then he has earned a Summa Cum Laude Theater BA from University of Southern Maine and studied with Master Marcel Marceau. Antonio's unique solo shows of stories and mime have been performed from Singapore to Hawaii and many places in between, including ten countries on five continents.



Website:

<http://www.storyinmotion.com>

Selected Works:

Under African Skies. DVD

Bob Sander

Types of Stories:

- Family and personal stories.
- Folktales.
- Historical stories.

Performance Schedule:

Performance Type	Day	Date	Starts	Ends	Appears With
Student (Middle/High)	Friday	January 21	10:00 a.m	1:00 p.m	Antonio Rocha
Student (Primary)	Friday	January 21	11:45 a.m	1:00 p.m	Antonio Rocha

Background:

Since 1985, Midwest audiences have enjoyed Bob Sander's original and traditional stories and music. A small-town Hoosier with German and Scotch-Irish roots, Bob spent 10 years as a folk musician and has traveled the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Europe. He and his wife and three children now live in Rocky Ripple, a small town surrounded by Indianapolis. Bob has performed at the Exchange Place Festival, the Corn Island Storytelling Festival, among others. With frequent engagements in libraries and schools, 30,000 children. In 2001, he was awarded a Creative Renewal Fellowship from the Arts Council of Indianapolis and The Frank Basile Emerging Stories Fellowship for his easy, understated style conveys keen insight and wit. He often interlaces his stories with audience participation and his skillful folk music renditions. Whether sharing a humorous family story or rich world folktale, Bob's tales stir the heart.



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Web Sites:

Visit Bob at www.bobsander.com

Selected Works:

Stories from the Heartland, CD

The Scenic Route: Stories from the Heartland, Book