



A GUIDE TO FACILITATING GUERRILLA STORYTIMES

WHAT IS IT

Guerrilla Storytime is a peer-to-peer skill sharing event, a training methodology that allows all storytime providers to learn new skills, and a public way to show how hard youth services librarians work.

HOW DOES IT WORK

A leader or volunteer storytimer chooses a challenge and demonstrates how they would answer or do an activity. Other volunteers can also chime in with their experiences and favorites. When conversation quiets down on one challenge, move on to another.

WHAT DO I NEED

- Storytimers, their creative brains and about an hour to facilitate
- Challenges, challenges, and more challenges! We have some examples: print them off, glue them to popsicle sticks and you're good to go!
- You can write your own challenges too!
- Props (parachute, bean bags, ukulele, scarves, shakers) are great for demonstrations and microphone if necessary

WHY DO IT

- Advocacy! Put your skills on display when you share tips and tools in public.
- Adventure! Learn something from new friends.
- Networking! Meet other library professionals and potential employers.





GUERRILLA STORYTIME CHALLENGES!

These are some examples you can use. Feel free to write your own! You can print these off, stick them to popsicle sticks, bling out a “Challenge Cup” and voilà! When the energy and responses start to fade, move on to a new challenge. You may need to act out some to get things started. And don’t forget to let the audience ask their own questions too all throughout!

Your audience has the wiggles! What do you do?	A kid says “I don’t like this book!” before you read it. What do you do?	How do you make storytime accessible for any with physical limitations?
There are parents talking in the back. What do you do?	You’ve just lost your voice five minutes before storytime. What do you do?	How have you incorporated different languages into storytime?
No one is dancing to the songs. What do you do?	You’ve got some rude parents—heavy sighs, rolling eyes. What do you do?	How do you make storytime welcoming for non-traditional families?
A parent says that they miss the other storytime leader. What do you do?	What’s your favorite way to add NARRATIVE SKILLS into storytime?	How do you incorporate books/songs from other cultures into storytime?
What’s your favorite way to add TALKING into storytime?	How do you add VOCABULARY into storytime?	There’s a kid up front who answers all the questions. What do you do?
What’s your favorite way to add SINGING into storytime?	How do you add PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS into storytime?	There are little ones who don’t want to give back the props. What do you do?
What’s your favorite way to add READING into storytime? Get creative!	How do you add PRINT AWARENESS into storytime?	A parent won’t respond to their kid’s disruptive behavior. What do you do?
What’s your favorite way to add WRITING into storytime?	How do you add PRINT MOTIVATION into storytime?	Your storytime has erupted into total chaos! What do you do?
What’s your favorite way to add PLAYING into storytime?	How do you add LETTER KNOWLEDGE into storytime?	A child is having a severe emotional reaction to a book. What do you do?
Share a parent message for one of the ECRR literacy skills.	What’s your favorite opening song? Act it out.	A parent is upset you’re incorporating media into storytime. What do you do?
Transition from a song/activity to a book as if you were in storytime.	What’s your favorite closing song? Act it out.	How do you incorporate sensory activities into storytime?
A parent brings a 6 year old to toddler storytime. What do you do?	What’s your favorite “5 Little” rhyme? Act it out.	What’s your favorite part of your job?
A child keeps pulling felt pieces off of your flannel board. What do you do?	What’s your favorite parachute activity? Act it out.	What are different ways you engage children to interact with a story?
A child cannot keep their hands to themselves. What do you do?	What’s your favorite fingerplay? Act it out.	You’re reading a book and realize a page is missing! What do you do?
An ambulance pulls up to your library and kids run to look. What do you do?	What’s your favorite scarf song? Act it out.	Share your most memorable experience in storytime.
A phone rings during storytime but no one silences it. What do you do?	What’s your favorite rhythm stick song? Act it out.	How do you introduce storytime rules? What if you have a rule breaker?