



Office of Technology Planning and Development
South Carolina Department of Education
South Carolina ETV



Baker's Dozen

A Teacher's Guide

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Thirteen fifteen-minute programs
with world renowned storytellers
based on the legacy of Augusta Baker,
“the godmother to all major storytellers”

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STORYTELLING

What is storytelling?

Storytelling is probably the oldest form of language arts. From the beginning of time, as people gathered around camp fires or shared food together, they told stories. Stories are a means of passing down history, tradition and culture to the next generation.

Storytelling is an oral art. It is both a listening and a language experience. As the listeners hear the words of the storyteller, they create their own mental images of what they hear. The story comes to life in their own mind's eye. Their imagination expands the storyteller's words into their own version of the story. The stories as well as the interaction between the teller and the listener create the wonder of this ancient art form.

Why include storytelling in the elementary curriculum?

Storytelling should be a part of children's educational experiences. It is:

1. a literary activity
2. a listening activity
3. a means of transmitting values
4. a means of appreciating cultural diversity

How to use storytelling in the elementary curriculum?

You do not have to wait until your class visits the media center to allow your students to experience storytelling. It can be a part of your everyday classroom. Think about how often you tell your students a story. You might be telling about the life of a famous scientist, how you celebrated a holiday as a child, or what happened during some special event in history. These are all examples of storytelling so why not make them as exciting and as interesting as possible. Use storytelling as a means of making lessons fun.

When a child shares an event or happening with another student, storytelling is taking place. Use storytelling by students as a means to involve all students into a lesson. Let them tell about an event or a person in their own words. They will have to organize their thoughts, sequence the events and use figurative language. Is this literary activity not learning?

As a listening activity, storytelling gets students actively involved in the story. They are not only learning from the story, but they are learning from the process of listening. Listening skills are critical to the learning process.

BAKER'S DOZEN

What is *Baker's Dozen*?

Baker's Dozen is an instructional television series of thirteen fifteen-minute programs. In each program a renowned storyteller tells a folk tale, animal tale, or other story. Several students listen to the story and then ask questions of the storyteller. *Baker's Dozen* is designed to be both a listening activity and a means of learning storytelling techniques.

Why is the series called *Baker's Dozen*?

A baker's dozen is 13 of something rather than twelve. Since this series includes thirteen storytellers who were all influenced by Augusta Baker, this series is called *Baker's Dozen*.

Who was Augusta Baker?

Augusta Baker was a well known librarian and storyteller. She worked in the New York Public Library system for many years and taught storytelling at colleges across the country. Ms. Baker is considered to be the "godmother of storytelling" and many well known storytellers consider her to be their mentor.

Why use *Baker's Dozen*?

You and your students will both need to learn good storytelling techniques in order to achieve the most advantage from your storytelling activities. In these thirteen programs, world renowned storytellers share stories with students. As they tell their stories, they also demonstrate good storytelling techniques. In these programs, students ask questions of the storytellers about the storytelling process.

Students and teachers alike will learn as they enjoy storytellers doing what they do best, telling stories.