Hundreds of research studies confirm dramatic growth in student literacy & thinking skills:

- Storytelling instills a sense of joy in language that makes children want to read.
- Stories develop the brain’s capacity to imagine, comprehend, and remember.
- Students develop important oral communication skills, which pave the way to reading and writing success.
- Students acquire a visceral understanding of story structure that aids greatly in reading comprehension.

And for social & emotional development:

- Learning and sharing tales as a class fosters a spirit of community and cooperation.
- Folktales model compassion, courage, & honesty in an accessible manner to build stronger character.
- Students increase confidence & self esteem as they receive positive attention from telling their tales.
- Working with international folktales enhances appreciation of different cultures. Documentation available at: jonsundell.com/educational-impact-of-storytelling/

Jon Sundell combines 45 years as a professional storyteller & folksinger with 32 years as a children’s librarian in public & school libraries. Recognized nationally for his visionary & innovative leadership in outreach and bilingual services, he has presented multiple workshops for the American Library Association and various state library organizations. www.Jonsundell.com Perfect Storm Edutainment Perstormedu@gmail.com

Workshop contents:

1. Students observe a storytelling performance by Jon Sundell.
2. Workshop warm-up: Students share personal stories & play storytelling games in small groups.
3. Students read several simple folktales adapted for easy telling and select their favorite.
4. Students “map” their stories using stick figures in pictorial scenes to help internalize and remember them.
5. Students learn storytelling skills, such as facial & body expression, vocal dynamics and pacing, through a variety of exercises and games.
6. Exercises intermingle with multiple practice sessions wherein students tell their story to partners, in small & large groups at school, & even at home. They are trained to give specific, supportive feedback at each stage.
7. Students present a family and school storytelling festival!
8. This workshop can be followed by another unit in which students discuss, write and tell personal stories.