



# Catch the Storybug!



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## Conferences, Students and Spring, Oh My!

Hello friends,

April showers bring May flowers but in Massachusetts the crocuses are cautiously peeking out from their winter slumber, still shivering from the hearty winds of March, which haven't left us yet. I will continue to throw another log on the fire until we make some headway further into April with those tricksters on our tails, and in our tales, as we celebrate Fool's Day! I have also listed sites for Cinco de Mayo and Arbor Day to give you a head start on the celebration in May.

March was a wonderful month. I presented a workshop and attended the [LANES](#) Sharing the Fire Conference in Rhode Island. It is always grand to see old friends and make new ones, learn fresh skills, and be reminded of those long forgotten.

On Saturday night, as we waited for the OLIO to begin, the fabulous and dynamic [Leeny Del Seamount](#) took the stage to present the Brother Blue-Ruth Hill Award. The award is presented to someone in recognition of "*his or her extraordinary commitment and efforts to promote a broader understanding of the art of storytelling and the support of storytellers in the development of their art.*" It is a prestigious award and the list of past recipients is impressive. Imagine my utter astonishment when Leeny called my name as the 2009 recipient! I was, and am, stunned, humbled and honored.

The splendid conference ended on Sunday, with what was a highlight for me. Three of my storytelling students shared their stories during the closing ceremonies on Sunday; they were amazingly poised and confident for nine and ten year old children; I was so very proud of them. The audience was wonderfully supportive and rewarded them with a standing ovation. It was certainly an experience they will never forget.

I wish you a month filled with all the delights, warmth, and wonder of spring!  
Warm wishes,  
Karen Chace



## Story Sites

**Apples4theteacher.com** - Fourteen stories to celebrate the wonderful season of spring. <http://tinyurl.com/cv7hcv>

**Jamaican Anansi Stories** - Tricksters are universal figures in folklore and Anansi is one of our most beloved. This site offers a wide variety of Anansi tales as well as trickster folklore from various cultures. The text also includes transcriptions of folk music, and a large collection of riddles, all cross-referenced with folklore studies from other cultures. There are also musical notations in some of the texts for the musical among us! <http://tinyurl.com/6huzob>

**Magic Tales of Mexico** - Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with nine stories from the colorful culture of Mexico!  
<http://tinyurl.com/dbjhp9>

**Phikul Thong** - A Philippine folktale for spring. It is a Cinderella variant, which is also another version of the French folktale, Toads and Diamonds. <http://tinyurl.com/ck8y2j>

**Nasreddin Hodja** - Information and stories about the beloved character of Turkish tales, including reading comprehension exercises. This website is also a portal to many other Hodja sites. <http://tinyurl.com/62gzxx>

**Tales of Laughter** - What better way to jump into the month of fools than reading Tales of Laughter from 1908? A collection of familiar and not so familiar tales from Russia, Ireland, Spain, France and many more countries from around the globe. They are sure to have you smiling with delight!  
<http://tinyurl.com/dh86jf>

**The Tree Angel a Vietnam Legend** - A lovely story for Arbor Day about how the banana tree was created.  
<http://www.vietnamwebsite.net/myth/myth17.htm>

*"To see that your life is a story while you're in the middle of living it may be a help to living it well."*  
- Ursula K. LeGuin

*"Nothing we learn in this world is everwasted."*  
- Eleanor Roosevelt

## Curriculum Connections

April is National Humor Month. Here is a link to help you tickle your student's funny bones!

**National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Kid's Pages** -Jokes, humorous observations, and trivia. <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/jokes.htm>

**Fables and Trickster Tales From Around the World** From Edusitement, lesson plans, information and stories, everything you need to introduce your students to those globe-trotting tricksters, Anansi, Brer Rabbit, Fox, and Rabbit. <http://tinyurl.com/23trr>

**Arbor Day.org** - The official site with everything to help you support and share this important day. <http://www.arborday.org/>

**Planet Pals.com** - This is a colorful, fun and information filled website on all things Earth: Lesson plans and activities for both teachers and parents, the history behind Earth Day, coloring pages, puzzles, clip art and so much more. <http://www.planetpals.com/index.html>

**Enchanted Learning** - May 5 is Children's Day or Kodomo no hi (Koh-doh-moh-noh-hee) in Japan and this site offers cultural information to share with your students, complete with interactive Japanese folktales the children can read, quizzes and games. <http://tinyurl.com/cgzlyz>

**Kites in the Classroom**- The Drachen Foundation is committed to providing educational resources and programs for busy teachers. Kites can be a remarkably efficient teaching tool, allowing teachers to integrate many subjects- science and technology, reading, writing, social studies, visual arts, math-within a single lesson or sequence of lessons. [http://www.drachen.org/kites\\_classroom.html](http://www.drachen.org/kites_classroom.html)

**Flowers in the Classroom** – Grades 5 to 8 Language Arts: Legendary Flowers lesson plan including myths, folktales and legends of flowers. [http://www.teachertube.com/support\\_files/1390.pdf](http://www.teachertube.com/support_files/1390.pdf)

*May 5 is also Cinco de Mayo, the national festival of Mexico; here are three sites to help you get ready to join in the celebration!*

**Mexico for Kids** - There's something here for everyone; fun and useful information on the various indigenous cultures, music, traditions, myths and stories. [http://www.elbalero.gob.mx/index\\_kids.html](http://www.elbalero.gob.mx/index_kids.html)

**DLTK.COM - Mexico Word Search** - <http://tinyurl.com/dxqzu7> and a fun song to teach to the children. <http://www.dltk-kids.com/world/mexico/song.htm>

## Education Highway

**April 24 – 26** Northlands Storytelling Network Conference  
Come to the Midwest for a weekend filled with workshops, swaps, concerts and fringe performances all in a beautiful, rural setting. <http://www.northlands.net/conference.html>

**April 25, 2009** 27th Annual Southern California Storyswapping Festival, Culver City, CA. For information email [communitystorytellers@gmail.com](mailto:communitystorytellers@gmail.com) or call 626.398.1151

**April 30, 2009** Storytelling Workshop, St. Louis Storytelling Festival - Thursday, 4:00 p.m. Missouri History Museum, Lindell & DeBaliviere at Forest Park  
Lynn Rubright: Enhancing Literacy Skills Across the Curriculum: Using family stories and stories from children's literature, storytelling. <http://www.stlstorytellingfestival.org/>

**May 2, 2009** OOPS (Ohio Order for the Preservation of Storytelling) Conference in Mt Vernon, Ohio with Judy Sima, Bill Lepp <http://www.oopstorytelling.org/events.htm>

**May 2, 2009** Granite State Story Swap, Tin Mountain Conservation Center, Albany, NH Swaps, concerts, and a keynote and performance by Jackson Gillman! For more info, contact Andy Davis (603) 447-2113, [andy@worldfellowship.org](mailto:andy@worldfellowship.org)

**May 30-31, 2009** The 29th Annual Washington Folk Festival at Glen Echo Park Free music, dancing, storytelling, and crafts--all from artists and craftspeople in the Greater Washington D.C. area. <http://tinyurl.com/dgz2zj>

**June 13, 2009** Care of the Soul: Retreat for Storytellers, West Bend, Wisconsin. Discuss storytelling as sacred call or vocation; identity behaviors that diminish the quality of soul in our work, explore practices that bring care, compassion and "loving kindness" to our storyteller's soul. For information contact program facilitator Midge Miles at [midge.miles@att.net](mailto:midge.miles@att.net) 262-306-7988.

**June 18-26, 2009** Storytelling Course at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. Call (314) 516-5948 for more information or go to <http://tinyurl.com/djhwkh>

**June 28 – July 2, 2009** Summer Storytelling Institute Retreat with Rona Leventhal in the Rolling Hills of Western Massachusetts. Go to [www.ronatales.com](http://www.ronatales.com)

or call 413-586-0624 for info and Early Bird Specials! Limited to 14 people; 34 PDP's for Massachusetts Teachers. <http://tinyurl.com/aabpy3>

## Get Creative With Crafts

**Activity Village**– Make your own carp kite or origami to celebrate Kodomo no hi (Children's Day). There are many other crafts, activities and printables to make this Japanese national holiday shine! <http://tinyurl.com/cxwvw3>

**Kaboose.com**– Say “Ole!” with these crafts and activities to help you say celebrate Cinco de Mayo. <http://holidays.kaboose.com/cinco-de-mayo/>

**DLTK - Mexican Bird Craft** <http://www.dltk-kids.com/world/mexico/mbirdrattle.htm>

**Bestkidsbooksite.com** - Strut your stuff on April Fool's Day with this Jolly Jester's Hat at <http://tinyurl.com/cvdew8> and tons of Easter coloring pages to keep you coloring in or out of the lines!<http://tinyurl.com/cwqyfo>

## Business Notes

**3 Things to Never Do With Your Social Networking Profile** by Michele Pariza Wacek - "I'm sure you've heard of it. You might even be doing it. But the real question is, are you doing it right?" <http://tinyurl.com/7gnql>

**Six Advantages to Virtual Trade Shows** by Susan A. Friedmann, CSP - "A virtual trade show is a cross between a webcast meeting and a video game. And it's the next big trend in trade shows. Although a mere 1% of all trade shows are now held online, industry experts expect that by 2015, more than 25% of trade shows will be conducted in virtual environments. That's a market you can't afford to ignore." <http://tinyurl.com/c9m2mb>

## Something Extra

*"Sometimes the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between two deep breaths."  
-Etty Hillesum*

**How Laughter Works** - This article considers laughter: "what it is, what happens in our brains when we laugh, what makes us laugh and how it can make us healthier and happier. You'll also learn that there's a tremendous amount that no one understands yet." Copyright <http://www.lii.org> <http://people.howstuffworks.com/laughter.htm>

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