

Read more comments from our Clients, Parents & Children of Small Tales Storytelling Clubs

Dear Debbie & Barbara: Thank you for sharing your storytelling talents with us today at the Lake City Library. Your stories, songs and music were delightful! I know our families enjoyed your visit and I look forward to working with you again.

Sincerely, Susan Bravenec, Children's Services Librarian, Seattle Public Library, USA

'I really enjoyed it, I came in feeling so stressed and the whole evening has calmed me down. I liked the way you tell the story, so we're not sure if it's fact or fiction, it moves between the two.'

Emily, Flying Donkeys, Derby

'I think, I think you're the best, the very best storyteller in the world. I've heard lots of storytellers and they tell modern stories, but you're REAL because you tell us of long ago, the traditional stories.'

Sadhb (10yrs), Gail Scoil, Wexford, Ireland

'I liked the audience involvement and the cultural aspect. I also liked speaking and greeting each other in another language.'

Older lady, Story Night at Torriano, London

'Thank you Miss Debbie. You make stories come to life!'

Erica (3rd grader), St John's School, San Lorenzo, California, USA

'Thank you for your stories. My son, Jim, came back bubbling with excitement and told me how much he'd enjoyed it. I was so glad as he didn't want to go and I made him.'

Katie, mum, Brewhouse Cultural Olympiad Taster Day, Burton upon Trent

'You have a wonderful way of describing - I could really see the places, you brought them to life.'

Shandilal Valand, Promoting Happy Heart and Mind event, Loughborough

'My stomach is full of your stories!'

Tom (9yrs) at Hull Truck Theatre, UK

Thank you, we've had really good feedback about the storytelling. People kept asking me when the next session was. One boy even told me you had been to his school. It's good to see secondary boys wanting stories.'

Rosie, E: merge Festival, Amber Valley, Derbyshire

'It has been a fantastic inspiration to work with you and hope the opportunity arises again in the future. Many thanks; I'm already starting to use the ideas.'

Sue Smith, Tiny Tales project, East Staffordshire

'They'll remember this for a long time – both the shadows and the story.'

Molly, care assistant, Horniman Museum, London

My sons were really excited they were going to see you again. We are regulars and I've seen all the different storytellers. Out of all, I think you are the real storyteller.'

Sasha, a mum at Hull Truck Tales, Hull Truck Theatre, Hull

'Thank you so much for your work. I can't tell you how much you did for me, for the project and for the people you touched. I have a feeling people will be telling stories about it for a while.'

Catherine Rogers, Drawing on Age Project, Leicestershire

'Is the student still around? Where is the mound? Tell me where it can be found, so that I can walk the long way round.'

Edward (15 yrs) St Edward's School, Oxford

'A great performance – seamless!'

David (teacher) at Brunswick Park School

'This class has been focused all day. They are known for their low literacy and lack of imagination and here they are producing wonderful story strings. They have been enthralled by you, so much so that they are spending more time putting you onto their story strings, rather than the whole story.'

*Mrs Sutton, Year 1 Teacher, Nightingale Infant School, 'Starting with Stories' project,
Derby*

'I feel so inspired!'

Abbi, Flying Donkeys, Derby

'My son's in the school that you went to in Barnstow and he loved it! He came home bubbling and talking about the storyteller and the stories. Then there would be a moment of quiet and then he would tell us something else about the afternoon. Thanks for giving my son such a great experience.'

School Secretary, Kilmore Primary School, Kilmore, Ireland

'It was good for me because I will tell my kids historical stories and real ones, but don't do the creative side, so thanks!'

Mum, Portway Infant School, 'Starting with Stories' project, Derby

The Sting in the Tale was pleased to welcome Debbie Guneratne with her performance of 'The Road to Butterfly Mountain' a wonderfully evocative collection of stories and reminiscences from Sri Lanka,

'Thank you for making me cry when you told the story of your father, it reminded me of mine.'

Jane at Quaker summer school, Saffron Walden, UK

'That was beautiful. You have a great command of language and use vocabulary to paint a picture. I could really see the place you were telling us about.'

John, Engineer, Drawing on Age Project, Leicestershire

'I like you voice, it makes me want to listen, it's so musical.'

Frances, Flying Donkeys, Derby

'Great session Debbie! I saw and heard them (Vocational School kids, 14/15yrs) not wanting to come, but at the end 2 girls came and asked if they could join the library and when the next storytelling session was.'

Sandra, Librarian, Wexford Library, Ireland

'I could keep listening, I feel so relaxed now.'

Gemma, Arena project, Bournemouth

'That was so wonderful, I'm going to go back and revisit the books I have about the Ramayana.'

Joan, Irish Centre, London

'The ashoka grove was visually stunning!'

Zoe, Horniman Museum, London

'Your workshop was very useful and enjoyable - it added a new dimension to some games I already knew and gave me some great new ones! The whole session put champagne in my veins!'

Nikki, Listen, Speak, Create workshop, Society for Storytelling Gathering, Devon

We were glad there was a break, as it gave us a chance to talk about what we had heard.'

Soma, Asian group, Horniman Museum, London

'He should have said please!' Deepak (3 yrs) said when Ravanna kept having to cut to cut off his heads to get what he wanted, Horniman Museum, London

'That was fun, I liked singing the hat song, being Clever Hans and making the sari fly!'

Juan (5 yrs), OLG School, San Francisco.

'I think you are an excellent storyteller. I like the stories and please come back, not in 2 years, but in 1 year as I'll be leaving!'

Stephen (11yrs), Oylegate Primary School, Oylegate, Ireland

'Thank you! It was enjoyable and much more than we expected. I looked at the children's faces and it was amazing, they were glued to you.' Bill, Teacher, Curracloe Primary School, Wexford, Ireland

'You look like you've stepped out of a book, a princess story.'

Megan (7yrs) Loretto Primary School, Gorey, Ireland

'I think you have a lovely voice, a voice I can listen to.'

Holly (6yrs), Pound Hill Infant School, Crawley, W Sussex

I'll always remember her (Nana Triban) putting oil on her skin. It was very sensual and beautiful!

Anna, Sundiata performance (adults), London

'It was a good contrast to have a woman's story. It stood out. I thought your movements were sensual and added to the story.'

Roseanne, Sundiata performance (adults), London

'I think that it (Rani and Ranjit story) tells us that sometimes you can't trust your mother!'

John 10yrs, Bunclody Library, Ireland

'The kids loved it! They have achieved so much in this project. They had fun sharing their story strings in showing assembly. Thank you for your energy, enthusiasm and expertise.'

Gill, Head, Bewbush Primary School, West Sussex Storytelling Project

'I'm tired and happy that I told stories.'

Jack (8yrs), West Sussex Storytelling Project

'I feel more confident and satisfied.'

Ben (8yrs), West Sussex Storytelling Project

'I feel great, I'd like to do it again, but I also feel a bit sad that it's over.'

Vicky (8 yrs), West Sussex Storytelling Project

'Thank you very much, I have really enjoyed myself. I thought all of it was good, the stories, the hand rhyme and especially the dancing.'

Mum, Nightingale Infant School, 'Starting with Stories' project, Derby

'I really, really enjoyed it. I thought the stories were very different and great because the kids liked the interaction.'

Samantha, Teaching Assistant, Parkview Primary School, 'Starting with Stories' project, Derby

'The kids thought it was fun and they are keen to find out about Sri Lanka.'

Tricia, Teacher, Parkview Primary School, 'Starting with Stories' project, Derby

Small Tales Storytelling Clubs

Parents' Comments

I would like to thank you very much for the storytelling workshops and for the confidence and poise you have helped develop in S. I was amazed at last summer's open workshop, how very fluently she spoke in front of a large group of parents.

Thank you so much. P

It was a delight to watch the children's performance and I know that Sophie enjoys your classes enormously.

Susan Laughton

Thank you so much for all of your hard work. Lucy has really enjoyed storytelling and I really feel it has made her more confident.

Julie Astell

Elizabeth has very much enjoyed storytelling and the only reason she will be stopping it, is due to the fact that the family are moving overseas. Elizabeth would very much like to continue the course and I am wondering if you would fancy travelling all the way to Durban during the UK school holidays to run some storytelling courses down there.

Jonathan and I have both seen Elizabeth's confidence grow in storytelling and speech generally and we are delighted by the progress she has made and enjoyment she has had with your course.

I wish you all the best in the future.

Anne Manduell

Children's comments

I come to storytelling because I love it when Debbie tells us amusing stories. I also come because it helps me to tell stories in front of lots of people confidently and so it doesn't make me nervous.

Tammy Falshaw 8 yrs

I like storytelling club because I like hearing and telling stories and it has made me more confident. I like Debbie's hair.

Madeleine 10 yrs

I like to come back to storytelling club every year because I enjoy learning how to tell stories and I like to have a nice laugh as well. Debbie also makes it happier.

Emily 9yrs

Storytelling is something I do on a Saturday morning that makes me think about things that I normally never even think twice about. Since joining storytelling club, I have become more confident and outspoken, I feel like my ideas are appreciated by other people and that my communication skills have improved a lot. The reason I have carried on participating in storytelling club is because it means that all my stories are listened to and I have met many other great friends here too.

Janice 15 years

I stay in the club because I really like the funny/silly/happy/sad stories. I also like the drama because when you're acting you can be someone else. Debbie is the best storyteller and the best storytelling teacher.

Nadia 7yrs

This is why I like storytelling; Debbie tells nice stories and makes me comfortable. I love stories.

Serena 7yrs

Storytelling has been an inspiration that has developed my confidence ever since I was 9 years old. I found coming to the club very enjoyable as I met loads of amazing people as well as an inspiring teacher, Debbie.

Along my journey I have met musicians, artists and storytellers from all over the world that have helped me in many ways.

Apart from the great fun that I have had, I have changed as a person, as the club has boosted my confidence, I am no longer frightened to speak up and share my points of view.

Philip 16 yrs

The moment you step into the club you feel confident with yourself immediately and Debbie is really kind and funny.

Corinne 9 yrs

I really like storytelling club because it makes my imagination broader and everyone there is lovely including Debbie. If I didn't do the club I don't think I'd be as confident.

Emsal Iyikan 11 yrs

I like storytelling because I like to listen and tell stories. I was shy at first but now I am not. I like acting out stories too with all my friends.

Krista Moody 9yrs

I think storytelling is fun and joyful because I learn a lot of stories and dances and we act out the stories Debbie tells us. Debbie is really nice and she listens to what we say.

Emily Yonge 9 yrs

I like storytelling because when I am listening to stories, it's fun to hear other people's stories, the adventures and the characters like talking flowers and moving chairs. I also enjoy getting up in the morning knowing I can tell a story and see my friends. When I am in English class and when I am writing a story, I have all the ideas I can use in my story from all my friends' ideas and that's sweet.

Raymond 13 yrs

Storytelling is the best club I go to. I like the way Debbie likes cake, especially chocolate cake. I have fun at home practising the dances Debbie taught us. I like storytelling because I love the stories Debbie tells us.

Emmeline 7yrs

I like storytelling because it makes me more confident in front of a big crowd and it helps me have a louder voice when I am telling a story. It also helps me know more stories off by heart.

Sophia Roberts 9yrs

I like storytelling because I can express who I am and Debbie is funny and lovely.

Tiggie Balfour 10yrs

I like storytelling because I learn new things and I am told stories and I learn new dances from Debbie and she is so kind I am even allowed to take a snack and drink to storytelling! I learn interesting things and Debbie puts a lot of expression into her stories. Debbie is funny in all different ways she has a lovely laugh and is very fun!! I make new friends at storytelling and I am only in year 3 and I have already made friends with a year 6 girl and she is called Emsal. Debbie and I have something in common and that thing is we are both fond of Chocolate!! This is one of the best clubs ever!!!!

Krishni Jaishankar 7 yrs

Small Tales Workshop leaders

As soon as I started telling, the quality of listening was so good, it felt like they were coming towards me. It was as if they were drawing me in.

Wendy Dacre, Story song workshop