

Who is Lyn Ford?



Lynette Ford is a fourth-generation, nationally recognized storyteller, a writer, and an Ohio teaching artist, who shares the oral tradition with interaction, rhythm and rhyme, humor, personal history, and heart. Lyn's style of telling encourages:

- Positive audience behaviors among young listeners through “front porch” communication: the audience becomes attentively involved in the relaxed give-and-take of story-sharing;
- An understanding of meaningful concepts important to positive personal development, offered through “backdoor fables”—the morals of the stories visit the mind like welcome friends coming to your back door.
- An appreciation of diversity and multicultural experiences: stories, call and response, choral response, and informative banter; an interest in preservation and perpetuation of the oral tradition.

What are “Home-Fried Tales?”

Folktale adaptations and original stories rooted in the oral traditions of Lyn's multicultural African American, “Afrilachian” family. Lyn calls her stories “Home-Fried Tales” to honor her father, who was a terrible cook (the only things he consistently made well were home-fried potatoes and barbecued ribs doused with Lyn's mother's special sauce), and the best storyteller she ever heard.

From Lyn's travels across the United States, her interest in researching the narratives she heard as a child and her exchanges with other storytellers, Lyn has acquired a repertoire of stories from many places and many faces. In 2009, Lyn was honored to share her stories at the Cape Clear International Storytelling Festival in Ireland, and for the third time at the Talk Story Festival in Hawaii, where the Storytelling World Honors-Award-winning *Cultures in Collision* CD was recorded with fellow tellers Jeff Gere and Alton Chung. In addition, Lyn's CD, *When the Gourd Broke: Common Sense Stories*, won a 2009 NAPPA Honors Award. Some of Lyn's stories are available for download at www.Tales2Go.com, a new venture recognized by Parent's Magazine for its innovative, educational family programming.

F

©2009 Lynette Ford

More information on Lyn's programs is available at
www.lynfordstoryteller.com 614-237-7605 friedtales@aol.com
and at the **Artists-in-Schools** web site directory of
The Greater Columbus Arts Council: www.gcac.org
614-221-8625 or 614-224-2606

From Talk to Text: Let's Compare

A storytelling experience from Lyn Ford's "HOME-FRIED TALES" examines story variants from several cultures, offering different ways to experience familiar folktales.

When Lyn Ford visits classrooms to share "From Talk to Text: Let's Compare," programs may include, but are not limited to, selections from the following stories. The moral for each version of a fable is listed.

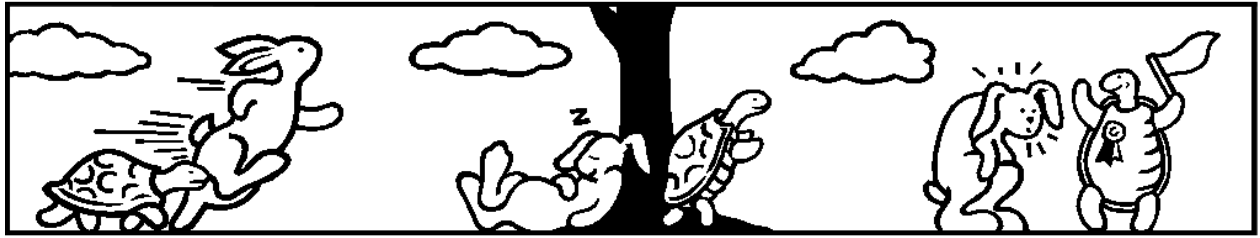
2

- **THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE** – Aesop's Fables: "Slow and steady wins the race."
- **THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE** – Adaptation of a South African folktale, originally told in the Khoikhoi language: "Unity is strength."
- **THE ELEPHANT, THE ANTELOPE, THE TORTOISE, AND THE HARE** – Adaptation of a West African folktale, originally told in the Yoruba culture of Nigeria: "Unity is strength."
- **THE GRIMM BROTHERS' VERSION OF "CINDERELLA"**
- **PERRAULT'S VERSION OF "CINDERELLA"** as depicted in the Walt Disney movie.
- **THE STORY OF RHODOPIS**, a "Cinderella" tale from Egypt.
- **THE GOLDEN AXE** – Aesop's Fables: "A Modest Request Is Best."
- **THE FAIRIES' HOUSEMAID** – A folktale variant of "the kind and unkind girl", from Spain: "Good begets good."
- **THE TWELVE MONTHS** – A folktale from Greece, Bulgaria, and many places in the world: "Good begets good."
- **SPREAD YOUR FINGERS** – an African (various cultures) version of the "Good begets good" story.
- **THE THREE LITTLE PIGS** – Appalachian/Afrilachian variant.
- **THE THREE LITTLE PIGS** – Well-known European version of the folktale.
- **CLEVER JACKIE** – Appalachian/Afrilachian fool tale, rooted in the Jack tales of Ireland, England, and Wales.
- **JACK AND THE DRAGON** – Appalachian version of an English folktale.
- **OH, JOHN, NO!** – Appalachian fool tale similar to a Russian folktale of "Ivan."
- **JUAN BOBO AND THE LITTLE OLD LADIES OR JUAN BOBO AND THE POT** – Fool tale from Puerto Rico's Hispanic/African/Taino heritage, with similarities to the Juan Bobo tales of Brazil that are rooted in Portuguese folktale traditions.
- **JANIE AND THE RABBIT** – Afrilachian folktale from the tradition of "Brer Rabbit" types of stories.

©2009 Lynette Ford

More information on Lyn's programs is available at
www.lynfordstoryteller.com 614-237-7605 friedtales@aol.com
and at the *Artists-in-Schools* web site directory of
The Greater Columbus Arts Council: www.gcac.org
614-221-8625 or 614-224-2606

THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE (K-2; 3-12)



A simple map of the Aesopian version of the tale

❖ *The Tortoise and the Hare*

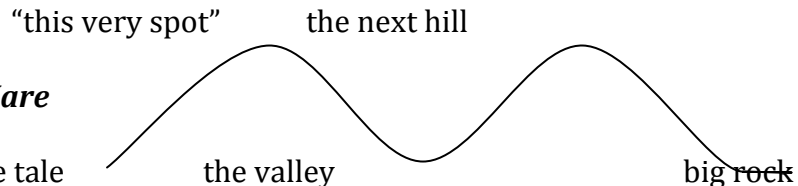
the path of an Aesopian = _____ tree _____
version of the tale

Moral: Slow and steady wins the race. (perseverance)

❖ *The Tortoise and the Hare*

- the path of the
South African version of the tale

Moral: Unity is strength. (community)



❖ **Read Lyn Ford's adaptation of the African American version of *The Tortoise and the Hare*. Ask students to "map" the path of the African American version of the tale.**

❖ Remind students of the different lessons from each story. Ask students which version of the story they like best, and why they chose that version.

More "animals racing against each other" tales:

- ❖ BRER ANANSI AND THE BOAT RACE: A CARIBBEAN FOLK TALE, retold by David P. Makhanlall. Bedrick/Blackie, 1988.
- ❖ "The Coyote and the Rabbit (U.S., Pueblo), and "The Fox and the Crab" (China) in NURSERY TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD, retold by Judy Sierra. Clarion Books, 1996.
- ❖ THE RACE OF TOAD AND DEER (Guatemala), retold by Pat Mora. Orchard, 1995.

©2009 Lynette Ford

More information on Lyn's programs is available at
www.lynfordstoryteller.com 614-237-7605 friedtales@aol.com
and at the Artists-in-Schools web site directory of
The Greater Columbus Arts Council: www.gcac.org
614-221-8625 or 614-224-2606

Turtle and Rabbit, Version 3

**An African American "Tortoise/Hare" variant,
adapted from Lyn Ford's father's storytelling**

Rabbit bragged all the time: "I am fast and fabulous, the best critter in these woods! I've never lost a race down this footpath, and I never will!"

Turtle had a plan to stop Rabbit's bragging. Turtle said, "Rabbit, you and I will race down the footpath tomorrow. We'll see who wins."

Big Boss Lion was the judge for the race. He waited at the finish line as other animals shouted to start the race, "One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, go, go, GO!"

Rabbit zipped away from the starting line, ZIP!, and down the footpath through the woods.

Rabbit was getting close to a big rock when he laughed, and sang, "Turtle, Turtle, slow, slow, Turtle! Turtle, Turtle, where are you?"

Beside the rock, somebody sang, "Here I am! Run, Rabbit! Run, run, run!" It was Turtle!

Rabbit hollered, "Wuh? How did you get to the rock first?"

Rabbit ran faster. Rabbit passed Turtle, WHOOSH!

Rabbit was getting close to a blackberry bush when he laughed, and sang, "Turtle, Turtle, slow, slow Turtle! Turtle, Turtle, where are you?"

Underneath the blackberry bush, somebody sang, "Here I am! Run, Rabbit! Run, run, run!" It was Turtle!

Rabbit hollered, "Wuh-uh? You don't even sound tired! When did you get in front of me?" Rabbit passed Turtle, ZOOM!

Rabbit ran faster than he had ever run. Soon he was too tired to laugh or sing. Rabbit could hardly breathe, "Huh, huh, huh." But he thought he was winning the race.

Rabbit was getting close to the finish line, when he saw somebody on the other side of the line. You know who it was? That's right, it was Turtle!

Animals cheered and shouted as Big Boss Lion roared, "Turtle WINS!"

Rabbit pouted, then he hopped home. Rabbit never bragged again.

Turtle walked up the footpath. At the blackberry bush, he met Sis Turtle. They walked to the big rock; there they met Mama Turtle. At the starting line, they met Daddy Turtle. Everybody in the Turtle family looked the same. They sounded the same, too!

Turtle, with his family's help, won the race. That was the end of Rabbit's bragging. That's the end of this story, too.

©2009 Lynette Ford

More information on Lyn's programs is available at
www.lynfordstoryteller.com 614-237-7605 friedtales@aol.com
and at the **Artists-in-Schools** web site directory of
The Greater Columbus Arts Council: www.gcac.org
614-221-8625 or 614-224-2606

**From Aesop to Zora:
Stewpot Stories and Home-Fried Tales from Around the World
Adapted and Retold by Storyteller Lyn Ford
(post-program activities)**

STEWTS FROM MANY PLACES AND FACES

- Brunswick stew (Southern U.S.)
- Caribbean red bean stew (Caribbean Islands)
- Gumbo (a Louisiana Creole soup)
- Irish stew (Ireland)
- Oyster stew (New England)
- Okra stew (Africa and Southern U.S.)
- Ragout (pronounced “rag-oo”; the word originated in France)
- Seitan and root vegetable stew (Asia. Seitan is a meat substitute like tofu [soy]; it is also called “wheat meat”)

Find the places where these stews began on a map of the world. Look for recipes for these stews in cookbooks at home, or in the school or public library.

- ❖ What kind of stew does your family like to eat? Who cooks it? What’s the recipe?
- ❖ What’s your favorite special-occasion food? Is it served on your birthday, in a certain season, or at a certain time of year like Thanksgiving or the Fourth of July? Do you know how it’s made? Describe a time when you’ve enjoyed this food.
- ❖ What was the worst food you ever tasted? Describe its odor, taste, and appearance. Where were you when you tasted this food? What happened when you tasted it? Have you ever tried this food again?
- ❖ Write a story about your answers to one of these sets of questions. Illustrate your story, or add recipes for the foods, even if you didn’t like them!



What countries did we visit through Lyn’s storytelling? Find these places on a map of the world.

Thanks for listening to the stories!
Remember to share your stories, too.

©2009 Lynette Ford

More information on Lyn’s programs is available at
www.lynfordstoryteller.com 614-237-7605 friedtales@aol.com
and at the **Artists-in-Schools** web site directory of
The Greater Columbus Arts Council: www.gcac.org
614-221-8625 or 614-224-2606

STORYTELLING AND STORY-ENRICHMENT RESOURCES FOR GRADES K-12

Sayin' Somethin': Stories From The National Association Of Black Storytellers

Edited by Linda Goss, Dylan Pritchett and Caroliese Frink Reed.

National Association of Black Storytellers, 2006.

This anthology includes "Big Fish," by Lyn Ford.

The Storytelling Classroom: Applications Across The Curriculum

and

Literacy Development In The Storytelling Classroom

Both edited by Sherry Norfolk, Jane Stenson, and Diane Williams. Libraries Unlimited, 2009.

These books include an activity and information from your storyteller, Lyn Ford.

The August House Book Of Scary Stories

Edited by Liz Parkhurst. August House, 2009.

This collection for grades 5 and up includes "Nobody Here But You and Me," retold by Lyn Ford

Internet resources

- www.aesopfables.com (656+ fables, indexed in table format, with morals listed)
- www.longlongtimeago.com (selected tales and story concepts from folktales to contemporary stories, including fables, science fiction, fantasy, historical stories, literary sources, and more)
- www.timsheppard.co.uk/story/ (information for storytelling beginners, storytelling experts, and all those who are interested in stories and storytelling)
- <http://docsouth.unc.edu/> (Documenting the American South: original slave narratives and other important documentation of southern culture in American history)
- www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/resource_library/african_american_resources.html (guides, reading lists, classroom activities, and other resources)
- www.storynet.org (the web site of the National Storytelling Network; links to storytelling web sites and storytellers, information on the NSN Conference and NSN Festival, and details of other events and storytelling topics of interest)
- www.nabsinc.org (site of the National Association of Black Storytellers; information on annual conference and festival, newsletters, and more)
- www.storyteller.net (storytellers' directory, articles, events, links, resources, and other information)

©2009 Lynette Ford

More information on Lyn's programs is available at
www.lynfordstoryteller.com 614-237-7605 friedtales@aol.com
and at the **Artists-in-Schools** web site directory of
The Greater Columbus Arts Council: www.gcac.org
614-221-8625 or 614-224-2606

Published resources

- Baker, Augusta and Ellin Greene. Storytelling: Art and Technique, rev. ed. R.R. Bowker, 1987. A guide to skills, presentation, and diverse resources.
- Baltuck, Naomi. Crazy Gibberish and Other Story Hour Stretches. Linnet, 1993. Participation songs and storytime enrichment. Audiotape is also available.
- Barton, Bob. Tell Me Another. Heinemann, 1986. Information on story selection and preparation.
- Bauer, Caroline Feller. Handbook for Storytellers, American Library Assoc., 1977. Stories to tell and suggestions for telling them.
- Brand Susan Trostle and Jeanne M. Donato. Storytelling in Emergent Literacy: Fostering Multiple Intelligences. Delmar Thomson Learning, 2001. Storytelling and the many ways of learning.
- Ciment, James. Atlas of African American History. New York: Checkmark Books, 2001.
- deVos, Gail. Storytelling for Young Adults: Techniques and Treasury. Libraries Unlimited, 1991. Techniques for telling, stories for a young adult audience, and a wonderful list of books.
- Haven, Kendall. Super Simple Storytelling: A Can-Do Guide for Every Classroom Every Day. Teacher Idea Press, 2000. Ideas for teachers to share with their students.
- Jones, Bessie and Bess Lomax Hawes. Step It Down: Games, Plays, Songs, and Stories from the Afro-American Heritage. New York: Harper & Row, 1972.
- Kraus, Anne Marie. Folktale Themes and Activities for Children, Volume 1: Pourquoi Tales, and Folktale Themes and Activities for Children, Volume 2: Trickster and Transformation Tales. Teacher Ideas Press, 1998 and 1999. Ideas for teaching folktales, plus bibliographical resource lists.
- Lipke, Barbara. Figures, Facts and Fables: Telling Tales in Science and Math. Heinemann, NH, 1996. Science and math with storytelling. Good bibliographical resources.
- Macdonald, Margaret Read. Earth Care: World Folktales to Talk About. Linnet, 1999. Opportunities to encourage ecological discussions prompted by story.
- _____. Peace Tales: World Folktales to Talk About. Linnet, 1992. Thoughtful folktales to facilitate discussion.
- _____. Shake-It-Up Tales! Stories to Sing, Dance, Drum and Act Out. August House, 2000. Twenty stories for interactive storytelling with tips for telling and extensive bibliographical lists.
- _____. Twenty Tellable Tales. Wilson Co., 1986. Audience participation tales, with information and tips for telling each story.
- Norfolk, Bobby and Sherry. The Moral of the Story: Folktales for Character Development. August House, 1999. Employing the power of stories to encourage and nurture personal development.
- Pellowski, Anne. The Storytelling Handbook: A Young People's Collection of Unusual Tales and Helpful Hints on How to Tell Them. Simon & Schuster, 1995.
- Sierra, Judy and Robert Kaminski. Children's Traditional Games: Games from 137 Countries and Cultures. Oryx Press, 1995.
- Wolf, Joan M. The Beanstalk and Beyond: Developing Critical Thinking Through Fairy Tales. Teacher Ideas Press, 1997. History, creative writing, and problem solving through fairy tales. Includes bibliographical references.
- Zipes, Jack. Creative Storytelling: Building Community, Changing Lives. Routledge, 1995. Benefits to education and critical thinking derived from learning to tell stories; encouragement of ongoing relationships between storytellers and teachers in order to encourage and support students.

©2009 Lynette Ford

More information on Lyn's programs is available at
www.lynfordstoryteller.com 614-237-7605 friedtales@aol.com
and at the Artists-in-Schools web site directory of
The Greater Columbus Arts Council: www.gcac.org
614-221-8625 or 614-224-2606