

Why not try some new ideas to inspire storytelling with your EAL learners?

Stage	Technique	Idea	I'd like to try this idea (tick)
1	Story Readiness	Make sure that the students are in the right frame of mind and set a regular time for storytelling. If learners feel this is part of their normal learning schedule, they will come ready to participate.	
	Story bags and story boxes	Using a story bag hold it up to your learners and ask the learners what they think is inside the bag (you can also use a puppet). Make sure you open the bag slowly, using some dramatic effects, and individually take the objects out one by one. You should do this every time you have storytelling time in your classroom to create a readiness to listen.	
1	Objects	You may wish to display pictures on the board before you begin or place the objects on a table or carpet before you begin. Ask the learners how the picture/object relates to the story. You can then use a puppet to help you tell the story.	
2	Discuss the topic of the story	You can take the topic of the story and ask learners what they already know about that theme, have they got their own story to tell? Can they talk about their relationships e.g. with their parents, siblings, pets etc?	
2	Begin with an introduction	Explain explicitly what you are going to tell the students for example "I'm going to tell you about...." then begin your story.	
2	Begin immediately	You can go straight into the story without warning and start with "Once upon a time..." You can add effect to this by just walking in the classroom and beginning the story to make sure they are listening and they have your attention.	
3	Using your voice	Consider how you want to deliver the story, will you stand up or sit down? Make sure you keep breathing as you read. Make sure you consider your tone and pitch of your voice, and how you can add dramatic effect, perhaps you can even use different voices. Make sure you pause and consider the pace, if you read too quickly the language will get lost, put emphasis on the key words. You can also pause to ask the learners questions and relate it back to them "You have a dog don't you, Paolo?"	
3	Using your body and face	If you are telling the story rather than reading it, you may wish to act out the story and use certain body gestures which the class can copy for particular part of language, for example if you have a lion in the story, the learners could move their hands out to be like claws. As you tell the story you can look at the learners to engage them, but equally you could just stare as if you are reliving the tale. Finally make facial expressions to emphasise what is happening, if there is a wicked witch you could scrunch up your face.	
3	Using objects/puppets and costumes	You can use the objects and puppets mentioned in stage 1 and incorporate them into the story. You can also wear costumes as you read or give the students costumes for the characters to wear as they listen.	
3	Involving the learners	There are lots of ways you can involve the learners, from call and response methods, such as saying the word lion and the learners all make a "raaaaar" sound and claw their hands. You can also story and ask the learners to explain the meaning of the text or they finish the story midway.	
4	Evaluation Cards	When you have finished telling the story, you can hand the learners a card and they can simply put a tick on how they found the story for example: very exciting, exciting, not very exciting and very easy, easy, not very easy.	