

# Learning a Story

“Learning it by heart”

I have found that it is easiest to learn stories by hearing them in person or from recordings, but the ones I learn from books sometimes become my own stories more easily.

1. Find a story that you like. If you don't like it, you won't be able to tell it.
2. Read it out loud.
3. Put the text away and visualize the story, scene by scene, in your mind. Watch the characters and their actions. What do they look like? How do they move?
4. Tell it to yourself out loud without looking at the text.
5. Polish the opening and closing. Learn them.
6. Learn any repetitive phrases.
7. Write a story file card. Put on the card the opening, the closing, and any repetitive phrases in the middle, in addition to a sequence of plot.
8. Tell it to someone.
9. Tell it to an audience.
10. Decide if you will keep it. Do you still like it?

George Pilling, Librarian  
Visalia Unified School District  
Visalia Learning Center  
559-730-7349  
gpilling@visalia.k12.ca.us