



Improving Your Storytelling: Beyond the Basics for All Who Tell Stories in Work and Play (American Storytelling)

By Doug Lipman

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The first steps in storytelling are often easy, because we tell stories informally every day. Once you take storytelling into the more formal contexts of performance or occupational uses, however, you may be faced with challenges you hadn't anticipated. You need information that goes beyond the basics. And you need it in a form that does not just tell you what to do but helps you make your own informed decisions. This book is meant for the reader who has already begun to tell stories and is ready to learn more about the art. Instead of rules to follow, it gives you a series of frameworks that encourage you to think on your feet. Doug Lipman has written and taught extensively on the art of storytelling. With the same generosity and warmth that characterize his workshops, he considers the teller's relationship to the story, the teller's relationship to the audience, and the transfer of imagery in a medium that is simultaneously visual, auditory, and kinesthetic.

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Improving Your Storytelling: Beyond the Basics for All Who Tell Stories in Work and Play (American Storytelling) By Doug Lipman Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #179890 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Natl Book Network
- Published on: 1999
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.56" h x .53" w x 5.58" l, .48 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Aspiring storytellers will be pleased to know that Lipman's down-to-earth approach allows for flexibility rather than an emphasis on memorization. A professional storyteller who has appeared at such prominent venues as the National Storytelling Festival, he presents a thoughtful framework that can apply to anyone whose livelihood depends on keeping an audience rapt, including lawyers, teachers and salespeople, although his remarks are more specifically tailored to performing artists. Advising the would-be speaker to "think in the present" when performing, Lipman articulates basic concepts in the use of oral language (tone of voice always prevails over meaning, he says) and of imagery and gestures. He believes that retelling a story informally many times helps the speaker determine what is most meaningful about it--a connection he terms the Most Important Thing (MIT), since he firmly believes that a story's meanings flow from the speaker's MIT. In addition to a sensitive discussion of how to build a relationship with an audience, he also focuses on the importance of warm-up techniques, including the use of a "healing yawn" to reduce tension and get an oxygen boost, and numerous anti-anxiety techniques. The best result? In storytelling as in life, one must "combine the knowledge of how to work toward transformation with the patience to let it happen out of your control." (June)

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From School Library Journal

Lipman uses theory, practical suggestions, and personal examples in this in-depth study of the relationships among story, teller, and audience. He delves into the definition of "story," structure and meaning, and models for learning a story. The author discusses the appeal of a tale to the teller; the conflicts, fears, and other psychological issues it may raise; and the emotional work that must be done before the telling. He explores the transfer of the tale's imagery by means of oral language, facial expression and body language, and voice. The book is easy to read and has an engaging and personal style. Lipman's guide is based on his own experience and that of other professional tellers. It is a must for those who strive to gain a higher level of skill, and who wish to make the story a transforming gift to the listener.-Judy Sokoll, formerly at Fairfax County Public Library, VA

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From Library Journal

The ancient tradition of storytelling connects all generations and cultures. Storyteller Lipman identifies the art, mission, and impact of this most treasured folk practice. Not everyone can tell a good story. It takes practice to develop expressions, voice control, timing, hand movements, style, imagery, and other details that enhance or detract from a good tale-telling session. Lipman, who has taught many of today's professional storytellers, aims his book at those who have begun to try their wings at local events and in situations that require more experience. His instructions do not tell you how to tell a good story, but provide the methods and reasons to allow you to make your own quick judgments and decisions. All kinds of audiences are considered, from preschool children to senior citizens, and sample stories are studied for content analysis and presentation suggestions. This volume belongs in all libraries for the storytelling staff as well as for patrons who want to learn the art of exciting narration. A. Richard K. Burns, MSLS, Hatboro, PA

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Freida Gilbert:

The book Improving Your Storytelling: Beyond the Basics for All Who Tell Stories in Work and Play (American Storytelling) gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable far more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem with your subject. If you can make reading a book Improving Your Storytelling: Beyond the Basics for All Who Tell Stories in Work and Play (American Storytelling) to become your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You may know everything if you like open and read a book Improving Your Storytelling: Beyond the Basics for All Who Tell Stories in Work and Play (American Storytelling). Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this guide?

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Dwight Bailey:

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