

# A World of Stories

Program Study Guide  
Barry Stewart Mann

## Program Description

*A World of Stories* is a varied, engaging, and customizable program of stories from around the world, set in geographical and cultural context, and presented in lively retellings. Miscreants, mischief, misunderstandings and morality make for marvelous stories from around the globe, including such delightful tales such as "Juan Bobo and the Pig" (Puerto Rico), "Why Possum's Tail is Bare" (Cherokee), "The Fingers and the Thumb" (Hausa-Nigeria), or "The Family of Fools" (Japan). Barry selects stories for each program based on grade level, themes, and curriculum connections, and can also include some bilingual *cuentos* or personal travel tales, or tailor a program to specific topics or traditions.



## Artist Bio

Barry Stewart Mann is an actor, storyteller, writer and educator who has taught and performed around the country. He holds a B.A. in English from Harvard University and an M.F.A. in Drama from the University of San Diego. Barry is a member of the Alliance Theatre Acting Faculty, the Atlanta Partnership for Arts in Learning, the Southern Order of Storytellers, and the National Storytelling Network. He was chosen as the 1999 National Storyteller of the Year by Ohio's Creative Arts Institute, has told stories locally at such venues as the Carter Library, the High Museum, the Decatur Book Festival, and Emory University, and was a featured teller at the second *Festival Internacional de Cuentacuentos* in Santo Domingo, DR.

## Sample Standards

- ELACC2RL2: Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures; determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
- ELACC6SL2: Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.
- ELACC9-10RL6: Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature.
- TAES.8 Examining the roles of theatre as a reflection of past and present civilizations
- TAES.11 Engaging actively and appropriately as an audience member in theatre or other media experiences

## Key Vocabulary

- Culture - the beliefs, customs, arts, fashion, music, and foods of a particular society or group of people in a particular place and time
- Folk Tale – a story developed by a group of people long ago and passed on from generation to generation.
- Legend -- a popular story from the past, often based on historical fact, often about a hero or heroine, with fantastical qualities.
- Moral -- the lesson to be learned from a story.
- Myth -- a story, often about gods or heroes, often explaining something in nature.
- Trickster -- a clever character who likes playing tricks on others.

## Objectives

- To introduce a variety of folklore from different cultures and traditions
- To convey information about the cultures from which the stories come, including clothing, plants, animals, and more
- To immerse students in the oral tradition and model effective storytelling and narrative techniques

## Assess the Learning

- Who were the main characters in each of the stories? What were the settings? What were the problems in the stories? Were the problems solved? If so, how?
- What cultures and countries did the stories come from? What did you learn about these cultures and countries? How were their cultures and lifestyles different from yours?
- How did the storyteller use his voice and body to convey the stories? How did he use special words, phrases, and details to help you to imagine the scenes in the stories?
- How did you participate in the storytelling experience?
- Did these stories remind you of other stories you have heard before? How were they alike or different?
- Did these stories remind you of people you know or of experiences that you have had? If so, what were they?

## Extend the Learning

- Compare and contrast the stories of the program to other familiar tales, such as fairy tales or stories made popular by movies. How are they similar? How are they different?
- Explore the geography and culture of the places from which the stories came.
- Create an original story to explain a familiar object or occurrence (e.g., why cats purr, how the game of basketball came to be, or why there is thunder).
- Choose a story or folktale to adapt into a large group performance
- Write about a personal experience in response to a specific prompt, such as: your scariest day, biggest mistake, proudest moment, etc.
- Interview family members to learn about family history and ethnic lore.
- Draw pictures of characters or scenes from the stories. Add in what the characters said, or might have said, in that situation.

## Additional Resources

### Books

Davis, Donald. *Telling Your Own Stories*.

DeSpain, Pleasant. *The Emerald Lizard, and other Bilingual Stories*.

DeSpain, Pleasant. *Thirty-Three Multicultural Tales to Tell*.

Forest, Heather. *Wisdom Tales from Around the World*

Greenway, John. *The Primitive Reader*.

Hamilton, Virginia. In the Beginning: *Creation Stories*.

Holt, D. and B. Mooney. *Ready-To-Tell Tales*

MacDonald, Margaret Read. *Twenty Tellable Tales: Audience Participation*

*Folktales for the Beginning Storyteller*

Norfolk, B. & Norfolk, S. *The Moral of the Story: Folktales for Character Development*

Rosen, M. *South and North, East and West; The Oxfam Book of Children's Stories*.

Yolen, Jane (Ed.). *Favorite Folktales from Around the World*

### Online

[www.storynet.org](http://www.storynet.org) (website of the National Storytelling Network)

[www.storyarts.org](http://www.storyarts.org) (website on storytelling from a leading teller)

[www.pitara.com/talespin/folktales](http://www.pitara.com/talespin/folktales) (site with folktales from around the world)

[www.collaboratory.nunet.net/nssd112/oakterrace/imc/tales.html](http://www.collaboratory.nunet.net/nssd112/oakterrace/imc/tales.html) (site with various types of tales from around the world)

## Contact Information

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