

Glenda Bonin Talks About Educational Learning Standards

Since I am a touring artist and work in schools across the country, I have discovered that every state identifies learning goals differently. While the goals are similar, the descriptions of these goals are not the same. With this in mind, I identify and provide an outline of student achievement goals relating to the standards I clearly meet during a residency. When time permits, I work with teachers to more closely match these benchmarks with the standards of the state in which I am working.

Following are some of the basic standards addressed during a storytelling residency:

Language Arts Standards met by students during telling and retelling story exercises:

- 1) Students listen to a story and form mental pictures from the descriptions in a story.
- 2) Students retell a story or create a new one from the bones of a selected narrative with a beginning, middle and end while using sensory details to describe.
- 3) Students inform, entertain, persuade and describe spontaneously with words.
- 4) Students practice using new vocabulary words as they retell a tale.
- 5) Students practice by stating in their own words the chronological, sequential or logical order of a story.
- 6) Students give and receive peer feedback using clear and descriptive words.

Theatre Arts Standards met by students when story exercises are expanded and experienced:

- 1) Students participate in collaborative groups to identify different methods of communication.
- 2) Students select and explore a specific presentation style before a group.
- 3) Students share a story with a beginning, middle and end using sensory details to describe.
- 4) Students practice using new vocabulary as it relates to the telling of a story.
- 5) Students become a character by using voice, body and imagination as communication tools.
- 6) Students share thoughtful evaluations in a non-threatening environment.

While many other standards can be met during my storytelling residencies, the standards listed above are always achieved. All of my residencies are tailored to meet the needs and interests of each school. Because of this, educational standards in science, math, social studies, and other art forms can be included in lesson plans as requested.