



Kentucky Storytelling Association

July 2007 Support and Appreciation for the Art of Storytelling In Kentucky Volume 3 Issue 3

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Useful Links:

KSA Website

www.kystory.org

National Storytelling Network Website

www.storynet.org

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From our President Don "Buck" Creacy

Although I have been a professional storyteller to the corporate world for some time now, I have never done a festival. Last year, I decided I wanted to tell at a festival, any festival and soon. Well, how do you get invited? I didn't know. Do you audition? I didn't know that either as a matter of fact I didn't and still don't know very much about the process. Okay I thought, what did your Daddy tell you? "If you don't know something and you want to know something then ask questions. But don't ask just anyone; ask someone who might know the answers to your questions." Okay, who do I know that has told at festivals? I made a list. What do you want to ask them? Make another list. Great! Now I had too many questions! Edit the list. Pick the three most important questions and a bonus question if my interrogations went well. Next step, who would be the best person to ask these questions? It is decision time.

My Dad used to tell me "to begin with the end in mind." So I decided to ask the organizers of the Festivals this one question. "How do I get a telling spot at your festival?" This question is not all that different in asking "can I give you a kiss." On the "Frayed Nerves Scale" of one through ten; it's a twenty-seven. But I was delighted to get the freely distributed answers to my questions. Did I get kissed? Well, no. But I did learn a little more about how festivals work and perhaps how to select better questions.

Fortune smiled on me anyway, my phone rang and Cynthia Changaris was on the line. She said, "I am thinking about going down to the audition for the TaleSpin Festival in Chattanooga, do you wanna go?" "Sure," says me and we talked a little about how it would happen and where to meet and what time. Then we hung up the phone and I began to chew on a really tough question. "What story am I going to tell for an audition?" Part of the selection was pared down for me by the letter we got from the festival; there was a ten minute time limit. "Can I even introduce myself and my stories in ten minutes?" So I selected three stories that I thought I could abbreviate and still try to show my range of tales which was quickly appearing to be fairly narrow.

Then I was there, sitting in Chattanooga, listening to the others audition, being truly impressed with their skills. I wondered if I had done the right thing, selected the right stories, and made a good decision to go to the auditions that day. I even wondered if I could find my own voice when it came time to stand and deliver. They called my name, I knew they would, and I went quietly to the front. Ann Ball, a gracious lady, explained that I had ten minutes to do whatever I wanted. It is funny what happens to you when you are on the edge of something you really want. One steady breath, a glance at the faces in the room, a slow smile and I opened my mouth. Even though Cynthia and I were the only two individuals who told more than one story for our auditions and even though this was my first ever audition I managed to segue between my tales and finish just a few seconds early. Then we came home and waited for the response from the TaleSpin Leadership.

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Announcements

Young Storyteller Alert!

Please tell every
storytelling young person
you know that they can
compete in this year,
Kentucky Division
Competition of the
National Youth
Storytelling Showcase.
Any person who is in
school and will be
younger than seventeen
on November first can
enter. Go to
www.kystory.org, click
on the yellow "What's

Yes, both Cynthia and I told at TaleSpin this year. I never doubted for a moment that Cynthia would be there. She is a fine storyteller and as good of an MC as anyone could want. But I would be lying through my teeth if I said I didn't have my moments of self doubt and confusion. That festival is done and over, they gave me the Festival banner. It has my name on it right next to David Holt; it will soon be part of my personal treasures. But right this minute it is serving as my new shower curtain. Oh just for a little while and then I will take it down, roll it up and put it with my other first things, like my son's first picture, my first yoyo, and my "dear john" letter. You know all those things that you never want or can forget.

Oh I still have my list of questions. Some are answered, some are not, but I think part of the fun is digging out the answers for your own self. Should you audition for a festival? Sure you should, if you want to, this is America and you have the right to pursue happiness. Yes, I am grinning and if I can... I'm going to tell at another festival again... soon. I think I like this.

The Communications Committee has added a new button to the website, click on the words of the "What's New" button and you will be whisked away to the latest information regarding the Youth Teller Competition and other neat things. The website, www.kystory.org, is really a very good tool to help us. Have you seen it lately? It is really neat. I hope that you are visiting your website often. Post your events on the Calendar Page, advertise your skills in the Directory, network with other tellers in their efforts to promote storytelling in Kentucky, contact the Committees with your concerns or desire to help. Both your and our efforts and skills are growing and getting better all the time.

I am happy to report that the Youth Teller Committee is truly making progress. This past weekend, I had a visit with Bradley Downall, Director of the Glema Mahr Center for the Arts. What a great guy, he volunteered his Usher Staff Volunteers to assist us during their day of semi-final competitions. Schools are entering the contest; I expect more to enter as schools return from summer breaks. Due to a glitch in our forms page, we have decided to allow all schools to enter contestants provided the students have their paperwork in order. This first Youth Storytelling Competition might not be huge but it is going to be good. Have you looked at the rules and guidelines for judging the telling? That is a good measuring stick for anyone who tells stories.

I know it is summer but it is not too soon to start thinking about attending your Annual Storytelling Conference. It really is going to be fantastic this year and you can make your reservations for November 2 & 3 at the Dale Hollow State Park. Mention the KSA Conference to get a discounted room rate.

Natasha's Café has turned into a great deal of fun. Can't wait to go back, see you there. So far, the place has been full with just a few seats open each and every time. Reservations are recommended and needed; call 859-259-2754. The cover charge is a fund-raiser for the KSA.

There is a lot going on and a place for you to get involved. Call a Committee Chair, make a mark for storytelling.

National Storytelling Network News

New" button Youth Teller link for all the details.

Spellbinders is national organization dedicated to spreading the magic of oral storytelling by training volunteers to become storytellers in their communities. Lexington Spellbinders is one of three Kentucky organizations you can learn more about during "Act Locally," a panel presentation on Saturday, November 3rd at the upcoming Kentucky Storytelling Conference.

The Lexington Spellbinders, the only Kentucky chapter, tell stories in over 30 public schools in Lexington. It will soon begin its fourth year of storytelling to schools and other groups in Lexington. It is sponsored by the Lexington Public Library. Contact persons are Greg Davis, Marketing and Communications Manager, Phone: (859) 231-5554 or email at gdavis@lexpublib.org or Kelli Dean, Program Coordinator, (859) 23105549. Mailing address: Lexington Public Library 140 East Main Street Lexington, Kentucky 40507 The web site is <http://www.spellbinders.org/>

KSA webpage

[A sampling of events](#)
This list is NOT

From Cynthia Changaris, our NSN State Liaison

There are four members of KSA attending the Saint Louis NSN Conference July 11-15. If anyone else is interested in attending, please check on the NSN site and register soon. The place to log on is www.storynet.org. I would be glad to talk to anyone about the conference. I have been going almost every summer for the last 20 years and have found it invaluable in my career as a story teller, but besides being invaluable because of the education, contacts and conversations shared, it is simply fun!

The NSN Storytelling Festival will be October 4-7 in Jonesboro, Tennessee. Check the web for that and plan to attend for an amazing immersion into storytelling. I have a great and cheap place to stay on a first come first served basis.

Want to stay abreast of the National Storytelling Activities? Join NSN and contribute to your own knowledge and to the support of storytelling. When you join, you receive benefits, such as a quarterly magazine, and up-to-date news of story events around the country, including storytelling learning opportunities. Go to www.storynet.org and join.

KSA Membership News

We want to spread the good news about KSA. Please keep your eye out for people who you think would benefit from joining KSA. Plan to carry information to every literary/literacy/story event you attend, where people might turn up who would like to be KSA members. You can request brochures from me. They will be complete soon.

If you have a contact at a college or other community organization where people might be interested in joining, let me know. I will send special invitations to anyone or any group you suggest to me. E Mail me at cchangaris@aol.com. Our membership is what makes us diverse, rich, and strong.

Finally, the membership committee will be calling each of you to say hello, find out what your suggestions for the organization might be, find out your special accomplishments for the last year, and to look for your suggestions on how to grow the organization. Expect our call! We look forward to talking with each of you.

Member Spotlight

Sharon Elliott-Fox is a retired United Methodist pastor. She currently lives in Scottsburg, Indiana, although she also lived in Memphis, Jeffersonville, and Owensville, Indiana. Previously, Sharon owned a florist & gift shop in Salem, Indiana. She also was a medical technologist. She worked as a pastor for 12 years. I asked her what she most liked about her work as a pastor, and she replied, "I liked having the opportunity to use stories to help people through difficult situations."

I asked Sharon which stories she might recall that she used during those times. "I would use just something that popped up at moment which seemed most helpful in dealing with their situation. People shared some of their fears, hopes, struggles, and deepest concerns.

Besides using stories in pastoral counseling, I also used stories in sermons. For the most part, these were non-biblical tales that served to clarify the lesson or make bridges to theological thought. One story I used several times was from M. Scott Peck's book, *A Different Drummer*, about how the Messiah is one of you."

Nowadays Sharon spends lots of time with volunteer work—at the local food pantry.

comprehensive; it is included here to inspire reader to look to the webpage for much more information.

Thursday – Sunday, July 12 – 15. National Storytelling Conference, St. Louis, Missouri. "Storytelling: Reflecting Our Past, Creating Your Future." To learn more visit:

www.storynet.org/Events/Conference/2007/index.htm

Thursday, July 19. Grant County Public Library, Stories told by Mary Hamilton 4:30 – 5:30 and 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. 201 Barnes Road, Williamstown, KY. Admission: Free. Contact: Cheryl Clemmons, 859-824-2080

Saturday, July 21, 9:00 a.m. Kentucky Storytelling Association Board Meeting, Bowling Green Public Library, 1225 State Street, Bowling Green, KY. All KSA Board meetings are free and open to the public. Contact: Anne Roseberry, 270-886-1386.

Tuesday, July 24, Scott County Storytelling Guild, 7:00 p.m. Admission: Free. Scott County Public Library, 104 South Bradford, Georgetown, KY. Contact: Buck P. Creacy, 859-402-0756.

Wednesday – Friday, July 25 – 27, Moving to the Front of the Class: Storytelling in Education.

"We're very busy giving out food staples. This is a poor county with 20% of the folks below the poverty line. I also facilitate a support group for people dealing with life changing illness, such as cancer, auto immune disease or multiple sclerosis."

Why did you join KSA?

Mary Hamilton and Cynthia Changaris are the easiest answers! I've known them for many years, and I feel they're excellent storytellers. They are very helpful to other tellers and I just admire them. Knowing they were involved with KSA made me feel like KSA is a group with similar values as mine—kindness, generosity, honesty, caring and compassion. KSA really feels closer; I can have more contact with the group since I'm only 30 miles from Kentucky.

What so far have you liked about being a member of KSA?

I've enjoyed meeting members, and participating in the last two conferences. I've found the conferences to be beneficial in making contacts, for who I want to be with and for the educational aspect of storytelling.

What kind of stories do you enjoy?

I enjoy Hasadic, Pioneer, feminist, and Christmas stories. They are wonderful teaching stories. My 16 grand- and great-grandchildren really get the whole point of the Hasadic tales. The messages are not in your face. I appreciate the pioneer tales partly because of my age. I'm old enough to want to preserve some of the memories of the earliest days. When I tell pioneer stories to adults, and to children, it makes that time become a little more real, explaining what those people were like and how they lived.

How has your life been affected by stories from family or friends?

My family was not a storytelling family so my sources of stories usually were books.

In adulthood stories have expanded my world to where I could never have traveled. It's made me more compassionate and understanding. I think I've begun to comprehend the oneness of all life through stories. One recent story that keeps coming up with various things I'm reading is *Nadia the Willful*. It is a great story about a girl whose older brother dies, but her parents refuse to let anyone speak of his name, Hamed. One day the little girl sees children playing a game, but she speaks up and says, "That's not the way Hamed played that game." The children are silent, knowing she is in trouble, and her father calls her in the tent to speak to her. But she tells him memories of her brother, and asks her father, "Can you still see his face?" He allows himself to see Hamed's face and she helped him to keep the memory of Hamed alive in their hearts. It is a beautiful tale, a story about dealing with grief. From stories I learn that all of us are much greater than any one of us.

The Music in My Storytelling by Ann Roseberry

RUNAROUND SUE, BARBARA ALLEN, AND I'LL FLY AWAY

Sometimes I need more than words to tell my stories. Music, songs, and dance are important parts of my programs. This is ironic since the only thing I can play is a CD player. My vocal skills can be described charitably as "joyful noise." My dancing talents rely on my enthusiasm and energy because they are devoid of any graceful movements or a sense of rhythm. Nevertheless I usually include a song, some music, and definitely a dance when I go before my storytelling audiences.

A Three-day Intensive Workshop with Brian "Fox" Ellis. Cost: \$250 (includes food and lodging). Location: a lake house on Spoon Lake near Galesburg, Illinois. Intended participants: Teachers interested in using storytelling across the curriculum, Storytellers who want to expand their work in schools, Librarians who wish to connect their stories with classroom teachers, and Educators looking for a second career in storytelling.

Contact:
foxtales@foxtalesint.com
309-689-8000,
www.foxtales.com

Monday, July 30,
Wandering Storytellers at
Natasha's Café features
Bonnie Strassell. 9:00
p.m. Admission: \$5.00.
Natasha's Café, 112
Esplanade, Lexington,
KY. Contact: 859-259-
2754 or
www.beetnik.com. This is
a KSA fundraising event.

Thursday, August 2, 7:00
– 9:00 p.m. Owen
County Storytellers,
Owen County Public
Library, 118 North Main
Street, Owenton,
Kentucky (across street
from First Christian
Church). Owen County
Storytellers meet the
first Thursday of each
month for story sharing
and planning events. All
ages welcome. Contact:
Bill Watson, 502-514-
1061. Admission: Free.

September 2-3. 31st
Annual Fox Valley Folk
Music & Storytelling
Festival, Geneva, IL

I started playing music to help with awkward times at schools when the students started to arrive. Some classes would be there early. Some would wander in later. I wanted a comfortable way to get everyone seated and ready to listen. Music seemed to provide the answer. The first time I used music was for a program of Celtic stories. The Irish band, The Chieftains, have some wonderful jigs and reels. The music is perfect for the kids to clap their hands and release a bit of energy. It also gives me a chance to grab someone from the audience for a dance. The kids love it when a teacher or a principal joins me for jig. It allows me some time to greet the students and show them my outfit or just to shake hands. When all the classes are seated and ready to listen, the music stops and the stories start. Music is played when I finish my stories. As their teachers line them up to go, I stand by the door to thank them for coming and being part of the program. I get lots of hugs too.

Music is also very helpful when I perform at the local nursing homes. The residents like to hear old and familiar music as they come in the recreation room. It also gives me a chance to personally greet everyone as they arrive. Many are in wheelchairs or using walkers so it takes time for everyone to get settled for a story.

Celtic or Bluegrass music is ideal for entrances and exits but I have other favorites depending on the theme of my program. I've used classical music, such as the "Radetzky March" by Johan Strauss; it gets the audiences clapping and tapping their feet. For ghost stories, you can't beat Edvard Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite with that spooky tune "In the Hall of the Mountain King." I also do a very crazy, ghostly interpretive dance to that piece. Audiences have been very receptive to World Music. My stories from India have given me a chance to use some "Bollywood" music and dance. "Hot Chocolate" from the movie *Polar Express* and the Snoopy Dance from *Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown!* are favorites for the December holidays. For my biographical stories from my happy childhood, my audiences and I love to rock-and-roll to "Runaround Sue", "Tan Shoes and Pink Shoelaces", and "Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch." Truly cool—very groovy.

Yes, I sing too. My singing voice is known for its sincerity and not for carrying a tune. When I tell the stories about my grandfathers who worked the mines, I actually sing a song that is based on the Jean Ritchie song "West Virginia Mining Disaster". My audiences sing along with me as I warble "I See the Moon" and "The Hostile Baby-Rocking Song". I even sing one of my favorite ballads "Barbara Allen". It is the tragic and beautiful story of Barbara Allen and Sweet William that moves the audience. Some have never heard that sad tale. My favorite piece of music is one that I use as I close my program at a local nursing home. I have several recordings, by various musicians, of "I'll Fly Away". It's a happy goodbye song.

Music means so much to me. It's an essential part of my life and important in my storytelling. I want to expand my musical skill this year. I hope to be playing a lovely I-pod by Christmas. Happy storytelling and have a long, lovely summer.

Please contact me at annroseberry@gmail.com if you have any questions or comments about music and storytelling.

Mentors are everywhere

I first started telling stories professionally at the urging of the Louisville guild, Tale Talk. I had taken a two week adult education course at Bellarmine University titled *The Art and Craft of Storytelling*; it was taught by Cynthia Changaris in the early 1990's. At the end of the course all the students (10 in number) had to tell a story to the rest of the class.

In a previous life I was a sales trainer for Bell South in Jacksonville, Florida. We trained other companies' sales forces how to sell over the telephone. Now

Featured storytellers: Yvonne Healy, In The Spirit, Chris Fascione (Sunday only) and Mike Anderson (Monday only). Schedule to be posted at www.FoxValleyFolk.com

Friday, Saturday, September 7, 8. Corn Island Storytelling Festival, Louisville, KY. Admission: Varies See www.cornislandstorytellingfestival.org for more details.

Monday, September 24, Wandering Storytellers at Natasha's Café features Thomas Freese. 9:00 p.m. Admission: \$5.00. Natasha's Café, 112 Esplanade, Lexington, KY. Contact: 859-259-2754 or www.beetnik.com This is a KSA fundraising event.

Friday, Saturday, September 27, 28. Cave Run Storytelling Festival held on the shore of Cave Run Lake, 8 miles west of Morehead, KY. Featured Tellers: Donald Davis, Elizabeth Ellis, Gayle Ross, Kevin Kling, Syd Lieberman, Sparky and Rhonda Rucker. Ghost Story Teller (Saturday evening): Mary Hamilton. 9:45 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. The festival is held in tents with chair seating. Food vendors and restrooms are close by. Admission: Varies. See the website for details. Advance ticket sales provide a discount. Group rates available. Contact: 606-783-1420 or 111 East First Street, Morehead, KY www.caverunstoryfest.org

you know who to blame for all those calls you receive at suppertime. Even though I had spoken to thousands of people with no anxiety as a keynoter at conventions, telling a story to those ten people in Cynthia's class caused me to tremble with fear and the loss of pounds of sweat.

I must have done a half-way decent job, as she invited me to a meeting of Talk-Talk which was being held at Mary Hamilton's home in Frankfort that month. I told a different story to that group and afterwards they asked me for my business card.

"Business card! Why do I need a business card?"

"Because," someone said, "you can make money by telling stories." I now have business cards and a CD for sale.

Cynthia was my first mentor and after the first million questions about how to do this or that, I still call her from time to time and ask more questions. I do the same with Mary Hamilton as she has been a primary source in how to tell a story. Both these storytellers have been very influential in my progress as a storyteller.

The more I tell, the more I learn about storytelling. My list of mentors has expanded considerably. They include every teller with whom I have told at festivals, including Donald Davis, Jackie Torrence, Bill Mooney, Barbara McBride Smith and many others. They include other professional folks with whom I have not story-told, such as Andy Offuitt, Judith Black, Beth Horner, Ed Stivender, Thomas Freese and many others. They include names you may have never heard of like Fred Craddock, Bonnie Strassell, P.J. Beckett, Bob Franzini and my next door neighbor Mark Blythe.

You see, every teller has their own particular way of telling. I watch how they move their hands, their eyes, their feet, their lips, and other physical attributes. I listen to how they pronounce words, their tone and inflections. Each has something to teach me. In that sense, every teller has become my mentor.

I followed Donald Davis at the first Cave Run Storytelling Festival in telling on stage. I was scared. I was following THE man, the legend. I noted where he stood and after being introduced by the M.C., I placed my shoes on the spot where he stood and thought to myself, "I am a storyteller too." Later Donald and I sat down and talked. He spent time with me and gave me several tips about storytelling that I still use today.

My one hope is that I am a mentor to other tellers. If there is something I am doing that will help others tell their story, I don't mind sharing. I suspect that each professional storyteller has their favorite mentors, but they also consider each teller has something to offer which will help them to become better at this craft we call storytelling.

Bill Watson
Storyteller
Owen County Storytellers

Don't forget the tourists

By Ronnie Peck – Region # 1

Last year I took a chance and submitted my name for entertainment at one of our local state campgrounds. "Oh, great we're always looking for new entertainers, what do you do?" I was asked. "Uh, I tell stories." Have you ever noticed the look on a kids face when they are caught taking the last cookie? That doesn't compare with the look from the Activities Director I spoke with. But we worked it out and it was great fun.

The great Commonwealth of Kentucky has one of the finest networks of state parks in America. Tourism in our state and in particular near our recreational

This event is handicap accessible; ASL interpreters provided if requested.

Program Committee
Betsy Fleischer

The annual conference work is getting along. We need two more workshops to fill out the schedule. If any one else has an educational idea for storytelling then please notify the committee through Betsy Fleischer at betsycat2@yahoo.com by June 30!!! The conference schedule is filling in nicely and is going to be another wonderful event. Book your rooms NOW so you won't have to camp out in your car! See you there.

Natasha's Cafe Wandering Storytellers monthly event is so much fun!! Come on out the last Monday of each month to see and hear stories. And have some delicious food too! July will be Bonnie Strassel, August will be Pamela Holcomb, September will be Thomas Freese, October will be the Spooktacular with Buck Creacy, Bill Watson, Charlie Hardy, Betsy Fleischer, and November will be Jonatha and Harold Wright. And December/New Year's Eve is still under discussion.

Kentucky Storytelling Conference, Friday evening

waterways remains consistent year after year. I discovered last year that many of the Activity Directors at these sites are looking for people who can offer good, wholesome family fun for a nominal fee.

The process is quite simple. Inquire as to who the director of activities may be at a state park near you. Present your credentials and be clear about what you do and negotiate your fee. Payment will not come from that particular state park, your name and particulars will be submitted to an office in Frankfort and you will receive a check a few weeks later.

Happy telling!

SimCity, KSA

by Donna Slaton KSA Treasurer

KSA is like one of those build-a-city computer games that my children used to play. In the first year we started with just a few people who had a great idea. We built our idea into a conference that shared our idea with more people, and we recruited more people to be active in building. With five officers and six board members from across the state, the group planned to grow even more and have a better conference the following year. They next worked on the infrastructure to prepare to build even more. Membership was enhanced with teller wanted and storyteller news, a newsletter and soon a page on the world-wide web. Once the page on the web provided inexpensive publicity for directory and events, membership benefits grew. A multi-featured page for taking memberships and donations required technical help and provided a very professional look to this infant organization.

Yes, KSA is still a toddler and it will grow with the help of its community. Please help KSA grow! Tell your friends who enjoy storytelling, ask those who support the Arts to support KSA, offer yourself as a working officer or board member or donate something yourself—several have recently donated. Thanks! Planning for next year's KSA SimCity has already begun. Your ideas, financial support and word of mouth publicity are very much needed. Kentucky Storytelling Association will grow in service and stature—only with your help. Contact a board member to volunteer or find out more.

Selection Hints for Specific Age Audiences

Preschoolers

- stories with one plot (not "meanwhile" or "while that was happening . . .")
- stories with lots of repetition (say repeated parts the same way every time and they will join in and tell the story with you)
- interesting sounds, especially when they are repeated
- short, active stories (not 10 and 20 minutes - unless you have oodles of joining in)

Primary students

- stories with easy to follow and predictable plots just a bit more complicated than the plots chosen for preschoolers
- lots of repetition (yes, they will join in too)
- stories slightly longer than preschool stories

November 2 and all day and evening Saturday November 3rd will take place at Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park, near Burkesville, Kentucky. Encourage folks to visit the KSA website www.kystory.org for additional details. It's not too early to book a room for the conference. KSA will begin accepting conference registrations within the next month. A Kentucky Storytelling Association, Inc. general membership meeting will take place on Saturday, November 3, during the Kentucky Storytelling Conference.

The Kentucky Storytelling Association has been awarded an Arts Build Communities Grant from the Kentucky Arts Council to help support the Kentucky Storytelling Conference. This is the first grant KSA has won. Applying for the grant made possible because KSA was awarded 501(c)(3) status. The Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet has provided funding for the Kentucky Storytelling Conference with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. Congratulations to the Program Committee, the Conference Subcommittee, and the KSA Board for this funding success.

- "silly" ghost stories

Grade 4 & 5 students

- plots even more complicated
- "real" sounding ghost stories
- plots with twists or punch line/surprise endings that challenge their thinking
- "fool stories" and tall tales begin to go over well at this age
- true stories from teller's childhood, especially if teller was younger than listeners when the events happened (age difference important for events that are funny in retrospect, but were not so funny at the time)

Middle school and high school students

- most of the same stories as Grades 4 & 5
- realistic ghost stories
- urban legends, although this audience does not always appreciate knowing the tales are urban legends
- stories of justice
- stories of male-female relationships
- tend to prefer realistic or tall tale animal tales over tales with talking animals
- the first story you tell this group is often the most important, so choose carefully. I often tell a short realistic ghost tale first. I feel the tale reassures the listeners that I know they are not little children so enables them to relax and listen instead of clinging to a disengaged attitude in an attempt to "feel grown up." After that, I can often tell a wide variety of age appropriate tales
- the teller's attitude often makes or breaks an event with this age. You must be yourself - not a grown-up trying to prove how "with it" you are, or a grown-up who "knows much more than you do, so you need to listen" or a grown-up who fears teen-agers. Teens spot fakes, feel insulted; then react negatively.

Adults

- most of the same stories middle and high school students like
- stories that deal with adult issues
- stories with demanding, unexpected plot structures.

For more information, please see Mary Hamilton's website:
<http://www.maryhamilton.info/Articles/articles.htm>



THE KENTUCKY ARTS COUNCIL

