

Storyteller, Speaker & Narrative Consultant Jenifer Strauss

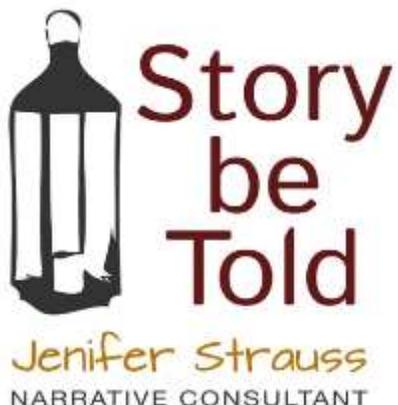


Jenifer Strauss uses story to help educators, organizations and individuals connect, communicate, and achieve their goals. After ten years as a middle school educator, Jenifer combined her love of teaching and storytelling and in 1993, founded her consulting business, **Story Be Told**.

During her years in the classroom, Jenifer used storytelling with her students to capture interest, motivate learning, and inspire writing. Jen learned that people think, learn and imagine in story or narrative and helped her students make powerful connections between imagining, speaking, and writing. Now traveling nationally, Jenifer offers dynamic story performances, writing workshops, trainings and keynotes along with long-term involvements as an Artist-in-Residence.

Jenifer is the creator of the **Turning Points Personal Narrative Process** which she presents to schools, organizations, businesses and individuals. Her curriculum-based program, "Tell It, Read It, Write It" has been performed and positively received by schools across the United States. She offers a powerful high school program focused on prevention, and positive self-esteem called "Keeping an Eye Out for Coyote".

Jenifer's credentials include a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Michigan, an elementary education degree from Western Michigan University, and a secondary education degree in Biology from Michigan State University. Jenifer is cofounder of the Center for Imagination, and partner in a collaborative business called Cygnus Storytelling, LLC, whose publications and recordings include *Telling Stories: The Cygnus Storytelling Handbook*, and a CD called *U Tell A Tale: Stories Told Through-U*. Her newest recording; *Michigan Legends and Lore: Stories from Shore to Shore*, was released in the fall of 2009 and focuses on Michigan History.



www.StoryBeTold.com
jenifer@storybetold.com
269-838-8361



RESIDENCY TITLE: The Turning Points Personal Narrative Process

DESCRIPTION: Jenifer Strauss will work with students during a storytelling and writing residency using the art of storytelling as a tool for relating personal stories, memoirs, and moments in time. Students will witness a Storytelling Performance based on the telling of original tales. One to Three one-hour workshops will be conducted with classrooms of students at specific grade levels. Students will be lead through a series of hands-on, self-evaluative, and explorative pre-writing and storytelling activities to gather ideas for their own personal narratives. Jenifer will be introducing a Personal Narrative Process she has developed called Turning Points that focuses on four overlapping themes: **impacting people, places that hold memory, symbolic objects and turning points that have caused change, growth and learning.**

OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:

- Students will see the Art of Storytelling modeled by a Professional Storyteller presenting personal narrative.
- Students will be engaged in a series of self-explorative pre-writing activities that will result in gathering ideas to use in the planning of their own original/personal narrative using the Turning Points Personal Narrative Process.
- Students will engage in story writing skills including: planning, organizing, strong and interesting leads, sequential flow of events from beginning, middle to end, descriptions of specific details, interesting word choices that exemplify the author's voice or personality, varied sentence fluency, revision, editing and an understanding of writing mechanics.
- Students will create a rough draft for a personal narrative or memoir, describing a specific and unique personal experience that communicates a universal lesson or truth.
- Outcomes can include the writing of a rough draft personal story that will be revised, edited, and published in final draft form. Students may also take their original works and develop their stories in oral form, thus being able to perform their story in a spoken word format.

Additional Outcomes: Students will have the opportunity to build greater awareness of themselves and others, more compassion for peers, a sense that they are not alone in how they think, feel, and experience life, and a clear understanding about how each event in their life strongly influences their choices.

METHODS: Each grade level will see a Storytelling Performance. Jenifer will conduct one to two-hour writing workshops with students (up to three workshop times per class is optimum), to begin generating ideas for personal tales. Jen will use a series of explorative pre-writing activities that will help students identify personal story topics. Students will be given the opportunity to focus on one or more of the story ideas and orally expand those ideas before writing them. The story ideas that are generated during the workshop time can be developed from rough to final drafts that can be published, recorded on audio or video, or performed by students reading or telling their stories to an audience.

The Storytelling/Residency on personal narrative can be the initiative for a more extensive project on family histories, family genealogies or family oral and written histories. In a residency format Jenifer can meet with each grade level several times and provide the motivation and inspiration for writing personal stories along with follow-up materials. The extent of the final outcome is up to you.

Read more about Turning Points, watch videos related to the program at www.StoryBeTold.com

BIOGRAPHY:

Jenifer Strauss is a Narrative Consultant who uses story to help educators, organizations and individuals connect, communicate and achieve their goals.

During her years as an environmental educator and classroom teacher, Jenifer used storytelling to capture interest, motivate learning and inspire writing. In 1993 Jenifer combined her love of teaching and storytelling and founded her consulting business, Story Be Told.

With an energy-injected and heart-warming style, Jenifer offers dynamic performances, workshops, trainings and keynotes as well as long-term involvements as an Artist-in-Residence. Jenifer is the creator of the Turning Points Personal Narrative Process used successfully for 15 years to help her clients achieve their goals.

Jenifer's credentials include a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Michigan, an elementary education degree from Western Michigan University, and a secondary education degree in Biology from Michigan State University. Jenifer is partner in a collaborative business called Cygnus Storytelling, LLC, whose publications and recordings include "Telling Stories: A Cygnus Storytelling Handbook", and a CD called "U Tell A Tale: Stories Told Through-U". Her newest recording is entitled "Michigan Legends and Lore, Stories from Shore to Shore".

269-838-8361

jenifer@storybetold.com

