



A GUIDE TO FACILITATING GUERRILLA STORYTIMES

WHAT IS IT

Guerrilla Storytime (GS) is a peer-to-peer skill sharing event, a training methodology that allows all storytime providers to learn new skills, and a way to show the plethora of knowledge Youth Services professionals have. Anyone may facilitate a GS as long as it is for a not-for-profit occasion and you give Storytime Underground a shout out. :)

HOW DOES IT WORK

A leader or volunteer storytimmer chooses a challenge, poses it to the group and participants demonstrate how they would answer or do an activity. When conversation quiets down on one challenge, move on to another. **NOTE:** If the same people seem to be responding, mention letting others respond to have a variety of answers/experience.

WHAT DO I NEED

- Storytimers, their creative brains and about an hour to facilitate
- Challenges, challenges, and more challenges! We have some examples: print them off, glue them to popsicle sticks and put them in a "Challenge Cup" to pull from. You can write your own challenges too!
- Props (parachute, bean bags, ukulele, scarves, shakers, sticks) are great for demonstrations and microphone if necessary



WHY DO IT

- Advocacy! Put your skills on display when you share tips and tools in public.
- Adventure! Learn something from new friends.
- Networking! Meet other library professionals and potential employers.

You are AWESOME!
Let everyone know it!





GUERRILLA STORYTIME CHALLENGES!

These are some examples you can use. Feel free to write your own! You can print these off, stick them to popsicle sticks, bling out a “Challenge Cup” and voilà! When the energy and responses start to fade, move on to a new challenge. You may need to act out some to get things started. And don’t forget to let the audience ask their own questions too all throughout!

Your audience has the wiggles! What do you do?	How do you make 5 little/10 little fingerplays inclusive?	How do you make storytime accessible for any with physical limitations?
There are parents talking in the back. What do you do?	You’ve just lost your voice five minutes before storytime. What do you do?	How have you incorporated different languages into storytime?
What is your favorite storytime book featuring a main character of color?	How do you model empathy, kindness, and compassion in storytime?	How do you make storytime welcoming for non-traditional families?
How would you engage with a family who speaks a language you don’t know?	What’s your favorite way to add NARRATIVE SKILLS into storytime?	How do you avoid cultural appropriation in programs that honor other cultures?
What’s your favorite way to add TALKING into storytime?	How do you add VOCABULARY into storytime?	There’s a kid up front who answers all the questions. What do you do?
What’s your favorite way to add SINGING into storytime?	How do you add PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS into storytime?	There are little ones who don’t want to give back the props. What do you do?
What’s your favorite way to add READING into storytime? Get creative!	How do you add PRINT AWARENESS into storytime?	A parent won’t respond to their kid’s disruptive behavior. What do you do?
What’s your favorite way to add WRITING into storytime?	How do you add PRINT MOTIVATION into storytime?	Your storytime has erupted into total chaos! What do you do?
What’s your favorite way to add PLAYING into storytime?	How do you add LETTER KNOWLEDGE into storytime?	How do you counter ethnocentrism and eurocentrism in your programs?
Do you use language that includes those who don’t conform to gender binaries?	What’s your favorite opening song? Act it out.	A parent is upset you’re incorporating media into storytime. What do you do?
Transition from a song/activity to a book as if you were in storytime.	What’s your favorite closing song? Act it out.	How do you incorporate sensory activities into storytime?
A parent brings a 6 year old to toddler storytime. What do you do?	What’s your favorite “5 Little” rhyme? Act it out.	How do you include diversity in your storytimes?
A child keeps pulling felt pieces off of your flannel board. What do you do?	What’s your favorite parachute activity? Act it out.	How do you accommodate families in the disability community in storytime?
A child cannot keep their hands to themselves. What do you do?	What’s your favorite fingerplay? Act it out.	You’re reading a book and realize a page is missing! What do you do?
Share a resource that you DON’T use now because of problematic depictions.	What’s your favorite scarf song? Act it out.	A storytime book depicts a LGBTQ family & someone complains. What do you do?
A phone rings during storytime but no one silences it. What do you do?	What’s your favorite rhythm stick song? Act it out.	How do you introduce storytime rules? What if you have a rule breaker?