

# Stories

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Stories can be used in a variety of situations. Stories can be used in any meeting as part of the program to emphasize a Cub Scout Pack Theme, a Boy Scout Court of Honor Theme, part of an advancement or other ceremony, on a hike, explain a game, or as a Scoutmaster's Minute. So stories are a lead in to other parts of the meeting or provide a change of pace. Of course in telling a particular story, there doesn't need to be a particular purpose or reason, just for the fun of telling it is sufficient.

## Types of Stories:

1. Fun: Noodle, Shaggy Dog or other nonsensical types of stories. These stories are fun are both the teller and the listener, relaxing and enjoyable.
2. Animated: Stories that the boys can pantomime or act out. Audience participation stories also fall in this area.
3. Teaching: Stories to teach a Scout Skill or to emphasize a point without singling out any particular boy(s).
4. Action/Adventure: Suspenseful real life, science fiction or fantasy stories told in a suspenseful, action packed format.
5. What Would You Do": The boys make up the ending to these stories. Can be used to learn an a skill such as First Aid. The leader provides the dilemma and the boys provide the solution.
6. Mystery-Ghost: These stories provide clues for the boys to guess the ending to the story or else have the air mystery that surrounds ghost stories. Avoid stories that all gore and no mystery.

## Storytelling Hints: (From Cub Scout Leader How To Book)

1. Be completely at ease. Know the story.
2. Help put the listeners at ease. Make sure that they are comfortable.
3. Arouse interest with a catchy or exciting beginning.
4. Make the story move. Maintain the suspense.
5. Create setting or mood by descriptions.
6. Match the speed and pitch of your voice to the action of the story.
7. Keep the listener's attention by varying the speed and tone of your voice and by using gestures where appropriate.
8. Don't prolong the story unnecessarily. Decide beforehand how and when to end the story. A good ending is essential.
9. Make the story and to the point.

## Noodle Stories

Noodle or numskull tales are about the foolish ways people behave have been told for centuries everywhere.

One night a man on the way home from a party took a short cut across a field instead of going around by the road.

He was walking confidently along when suddenly he fell into a newly dug hole. He tried to climb up one side of it, but the loose earth slid down around his feet. The more he tried, the deeper he got. He tried the other side but the earth was loose there too, and soon he found himself buried up to the knees.

He tried again and again, but the loose soil kept sliding down, and he couldn't get out. So he gave up and went home to get a to dig himself out.

One day my father was riding down this old country road on his horse. It was just after a bad rainstorm. Suddenly he saw this man's head sticking out of the mud right next to the road. He couldn't believe it, but it was true.

"Hello!" said the man smiling.

"Oh my heavens!" said Daddy. "What has happened to you? Wait! Hold on! I'll get you some rope and maybe I can get you out of there."

"Oh that's all right," said the man, "I'm standing on a ladder."

Two young fellows were waiting alongside the road waiting for the bus. They had errands to run in town. They waited and they waited. The bus was late and they waited.

Finally one young fellow said, "If that bus doesn't come here soon, I'm going to ride to town in a wheelbarrow."

"You can't do that," said the other "How will you make it go."

"Run along behind it."

Two silly fellows were sleeping together one night when a thief crept in, pulled the quilt off of them and ran away with it.

"Run after him," said one, "Run and get the quilt."

"Don't be foolish!" said the other. "Wait till he comes back for the pillow and we'll both jump on him."

Once there was a man who saw the moon reflected in the water of a pond near by his house. He ran and obtained a rope and tried to pull the moon out of the water, but he couldn't seem to be able to get the rope around it.

Then he ran and got a net. That would do it, he thought. He cast the net again and again but never succeeded in dragging the moon out of the pond. And finally he fell in himself.

He had a hard time getting out of the pond, since the bank was slippery and wet. But in the midst of his struggle to get out, the man looked up and saw the moon in the sky. "Anyway, the moon is saved," he said.

First person: "I snored so loud I used to wake myself up."

Second person: "What did you do about it?"

First person: "I cured myself."

Second person: "How?"

First person: "Now I sleep in the next room and don't hear a thing."

This house painter was on a ladder and his partner was down below. "hey, you got a firm grip on that brush?" the one below called up. "Yup!" the one above called down. "Okay. Hang on. I need the ladder," the one below said.

This woman's son was away in the army and he wrote her that he had grown another foot so she knitted him another sock.

One person was telling another person about the terrible dream he had had the night before. He dreamed that he had stepped on a nail which pierced his foot. "Well, why do you sleep barefoot."

A crew of workman were building a house. After a lot of activity the one in charge went over to see the boss.

"Say," he asked, "did you want this house built from the top down or from the bottom up."

"Why, from the bottom up," the boss said.

"Well, okay," he sighed. Then he turned and yelled, "Tear'er down boys! We gotta start over!"

Have you heard of these people:

- a. The man who threw his shoes away because he thought they were sticking his tongues out at him.
- b. The girl who went to the corner to see the traffic jam. A truck came along and gave her a jar.
- c. The guy who stayed up all night to study for a blood test.
- d. The kid who took the bus home but his mother made him take it back.
- e. The boy who took a ruler to bed so he could see how long he slept.
- f. The man who took a hammer to bed so he could hit the hay.
- g. The lady who ran around the bed trying to catch some sleep.
- h. The boy who sat in his living room because he thought he was dying.
- i. The football player who asked his coach to flood the field so he could go in as a sub.
- j. The girl who put her bed in the fireplace so she could sleep like a log.

## POSSIBILITY CHAIN STORY

This is an interesting format to tell a story. A generic format can be easily written to adjust it to other situations.

### Story

Two pilots went up in an airplane.  
The airplane had a good motor.  
That's good.  
No that's bad. The motor didn't work.  
Oh, that's bad.  
No, that was good. They had a parachute.  
Oh, that's good.  
No, that was bad. It didn't open.  
That's bad.  
No, that was good. There was a haystack.  
Oh, that's good.  
  
No, that was bad. There was a pitchfork  
in the haystack.  
That's bad.  
No, that was good. They missed the pitchfork.  
That's good.  
No, that was bad.  
They missed the haystack.

### Algorithm

Set up the topic  
Sets the stage  
  
First reply. Explain why.  
Second reply. Negative.  
Third reply. Explain why.  
Positive reply.  
Keep alternating between positive and  
negative  
Keep alternating between positive and  
negative statements until the punch line  
is reached.

Punch line

## ENDLESS TALES (CIRCULAR TALES)

These tales sound at first as if they might be marvelous stories, but sooner or later, usually sooner, they begin the same words or ideas, going around and around, getting nowhere fast. One way to read or tell these stories is to repeat these tales faster and faster each time you go around telling or reading it. Endless tales are also known as rounds when used as songs.

Then the captain of the other yacht  
got mad and swore an awful lot.  
And the other yacht  
gained on the other yacht.  
Then the other yacht  
gained on the other yacht.  
Then the captain of the other yacht  
got mad and swore an awful lot.  
And the other yacht  
gained on the other yacht .....

It was a dark and stormy night and the captain asked one of his men to tell a story to while away the hours and keep their minds off all the frightening noises all about. He began his story:

"It was a dark and stormy night and the captain asked one of his men to tell a story to while away the hours ...."

To adapt this story replace "captain" with "patrol leader", "scoutmaster", "den chief" or "den leader". Also replace "men" with "scouts" or "cubs". If desired the story can be easily expanded in more detail if desired.

We met at dawn at the gates of Paris. And I being the better man, quickly overcame my adversary. Where upon I then retired to a nearby cafe' for proper rest and relaxation. Whereupon I met a man:

He asked, "What have you been doing?"

"What have I've been doing?"

"Yes, what have you been doing?"

"I've been dueling."

"You've been dueling?"

"Yes, I've been dueling."

"With whom have you been dueling?"

"With whom heavy been dueling?"

"With whom have I been dueling?"

" Yes, with whom have been dueling?"

"I've been dueling with Lt. Green of the Queen's Marines."

"Not Lt. Green of the Queen's Marines?"

"Yes, Lt. Green of the Queen's Marines."

"Why, he is my brother!"

"Yes, he is my brother. And we must fight!"

"Must we fight?"

"Yes, we must fight!"

So we met at dawn at the gates of Paris. And I being the better man ....

If you desire to create your own chain story with the format used above. The format is created in the following way:

1. Initial sentence or paragraph given by the first person
2. Second person asks a question.
3. Sequence of three statements:
  - a. First person (speaker in the first line or paragraph. rephrases question in the first person.
  - b. Second person replies "yes" and repeats the question.
  - c. First person answers question.
4. Continue Step 3 until the point is reached that Step 1 is repeated again.
5. Repeat Step 1.

Once there was a king who was very wise and good. To protect his people against hunger, he decided to store the extra grain when the crop was large so that there would be enough grain for the people when the crop was small.

So he built silos all over his kingdom. Soon all the grain silos were stuffed full of grain. The King was very pleased.

But one day a little locust was walking around the bottom of one of the silos and he saw a little hole in the wall. he crawled through the hole, took a grain of wheat and crawled out.

Soon he had told other locusts about the hole and they all came to the silo.

Then he crawled in and took another grain of wheat.

Then another locust crawled in and took another grain of wheat.

Then another locust crawled in and took another grain of wheat.

Then another locust crawled in and took another grain of wheat.

Then another locust crawled in and took another grain of wheat.

Then another locust .....

This is a fun story to tell at campfires, or courts of honors. Change the names to suit the people in your organization. This type of story can also be adapted to correspond to what might happen on a Cub Day or other Cub Scout activity.

Dear Mom and Dad,

We are having a fun time at Camp Tracey. Peter is making us all write to our parents in case you saw that flood on TV and got worried. We are OK. Only one of tents and two of our sleeping bags got washed away. Luckily none of us was drowned because we were all up on the mountain looking for Irv when it happened. Oh yes, please call Irv's mother and tell her that he's OK. He can't write because of the cast. I got to ride in one of the search and rescue jeeps. It was neat. We never would have found him in the dark if it hadn't been for the lightening. Peter got mad at Irv for going on a hike alone without telling anyone. Irv said that he did tell him, but it was during the fire so he probably didn't hear him.

Did you know that if you pour gas on a fire the gas can will blow up? The wet wood didn't burn but one of our tents did. Also, some of our clothes. Pat looks pretty weird without eyebrows.

We will be home Saturday, if Peter gets the car fixed. It wasn't his fault about the wreck. The brakes worked OK when we left. Peter said, on a car that old you have to expect something to break down. That's why he can't get insurance on it. We think it's a neat car. He doesn't care if we get it dirty and sometimes he lets ride on the tailgate. It gets pretty hot with ten people in the car. He let us take turns riding in the trailer until a highway patrolman stopped and talked to us. Peter is a neat guy. Don't worry he is a good driver. In fact he is teaching Pat how to drive, but he only lets him drive on the mountain roads where there isn't much traffic. About all we saw up there was logging trucks.

This morning all of the guys were diving off the rocks and swimming out in the lake. Peter wouldn't let me because I can't swim and Irv was afraid he'd sink because of the cast, so Peter let us take the canoe across the lake. It was great. You can still see some of the trees under the water from the flood. Peter isn't crabby like some

Scoutmasters. He has to spend a lot of time working on the car, so we are trying not to cause him any trouble.

Guess what, we have all passed off our First Aid merit badge. When Verl dove in the lake and cut his arm, we got to see how a tourniquet works. Also Dan threw up and I almost did. Peter said that it was probably just food poisoning from Tuesday's leftover chicken.

I have to go now. We are going to town to mail our letters and buy bullets. Don't worry about anything. We are fine.

Love,

Your Son

P.S. Peter asked me to ask you how long it has been since I had a tetanus shot.

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