Tell Me a Story

School Launch · a screen-free narration. The child speaks. The parent writes the child's words. schoollaunch.org/parents/tell-me-a-story/

Put the screen away. Roll a die once for each list, or cut these lists into slips and draw one from each bowl. Then the child tells the tale. Write what you hear. Do not improve it while the child is speaking.

1 · Who

1. a shepherd boy
2. a baker's daughter
3. a ship's boy
4. a grandmother
5. a faithful hound
6. a king's messenger

2 · Where

1. a stone cottage
2. a harbor at first light
3. a path through the woods
4. a walled garden
5. a chapel on a hill
6. the market square

3 · What goes wrong

1. a promise nearly broken
2. a lamb gone through a gap
3. a storm on the way
4. a hungry stranger at the door
5. a tool that snaps
6. a truth that must be told

Starter cards · Kindergarten–Grade 2

K–2
The red hen finds a button on the lane. What does she do with it?

K–2
Rain starts while you carry the eggs home. Who shares a cloak?

K–2
The lamb will not come through the gate. How does the child bring him in?

K–2
The kitchen fire has gone out before supper. What happens next?

K–2
A seed is planted in a cracked cup. Who comes to see what grows?

K–2
The chapel bell rings early. Why, and who runs to hear it?

Starter cards · Grades 3–5

GRADES 3–5

Two brothers have one good coat and a long cold walk. How do they share it?

GRADES 3–5

The village well is low. What do the neighbors do before dark?

GRADES 3–5

A girl promised to watch the sheep, then hears a bell in the wood. Does she leave them?

GRADES 3–5

A letter arrives with no name, only a map of the lane. Who sent it?

GRADES 3–5

A boy mends a torn net. What does the fisherman find in it at dawn?

GRADES 3–5

A plank on the footbridge is loose. Who warns the cart before it crosses?

Starter cards · Grades 6–8

GRADES 6–8

A watchman sleeps at his post and wakes to a footprint inside the shut gate. What does he do?

GRADES 6–8

A ship’s boy must keep the lamp lit, and the oil is nearly gone. What does he choose?

GRADES 6–8

Two friends disagree about telling a hard truth. How can both stay honest?

GRADES 6–8

A poor house feeds a traveler. In the morning he can pay them or slip away. What does he do?

GRADES 6–8

An old map does not match the valley you see from the hill. Which do you trust?

GRADES 6–8

A messenger is offered money to deliver a letter a day late. What does the delay cost?

My story

The child tells. The parent writes the child’s words, not a corrected version. Read it back. One added sentence is welcome.

Child’s name

Date

Title of the story

Told after (book or card)

Read the narration aloud. If the child wishes, add one sentence below.

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