

The Kids' STORYTELLING CLUB

Special Presentation!



Classic Issue Excerpt

Volume 8 Issue 3 Spring 2002, Pages 1-5

The Peace Puzzle

The Kids' Storytelling Club is sponsored by Storycraft Publishing and provides online help for young storytellers, including craft ideas, activities, sample stories, and advice for creating and telling stories. These include new projects as well as favorites from past issues of Storycraft publications. *Junior Storyteller* was published quarterly from 1994 through 2010, and was a favorite of kids, parents, librarians and teachers looking for youth storytelling inspiration.

In this popular classic issue, you'll find a project (craft, story, activity, and advice) for a timeless and still very important story of cooperation and peace.

Remember, for storytelling, you don't memorize and recite, you adapt and tell. So as you read this, think how you might adapt it to modern audiences or use current technology to help you tell, or modify it to reflect your own experiences.



Tell what you know, make it your own. Maybe instead of handing out stars at the end, you turn that around and send a star to everyone as an invitation to your telling, and then your audience learns where it fits as you tell. Or maybe with modern technology you can project the image huge on an entire wall for your telling. Or you might create a slide animation showing pieces assembling while you tell. Or you might add color if you are artistic.

Or maybe you modify the setting of the story. If you live not in a small town but in a neighborhood in a large city, maybe you don't see farms. So you might have different historic places in your telling of the story. Maybe a historic restaurant has the farm pictured in the puzzle as their business partner and source of their special foods? You might rename several of the pictured buildings. Perhaps it is not a bank but a hotel, not a school but a museum, or a small factory? Or it is a zoo, not a farm? What eight long-time and diverse residents might you have? Look around you in your hometown neighborhood. Can you now imagine a similar story happening?

You'll find that no matter how you adapt or modify it or update your method of storytelling, if you always remember and keep the basic story of cooperation and peace, your audience will enjoy your storytelling. And they will leave your performance remembering your little star of peace.



Junior Storyteller

Volume 8, Issue 3, Spring 2002

Activity Guide for Young Storytellers

Coming Soon in the Junior Storyteller

Summer (July): Storytelling With Paper Dolls

Fall (October): Storytelling in Scouts & Other Youth Organizations

Winter (January): Fantasy Fun



Look Online for The Kids' Storytelling Club

<http://www.storycraft.com>

May/June/July: Storytelling in Scouts & Other Youth Organizations

August/September: Magic Storytelling Hands (Gloves)

October/November: Youth Tellabration! 2002 A Worldwide Event

December/January: What's It Mean? Discovering Story Secrets



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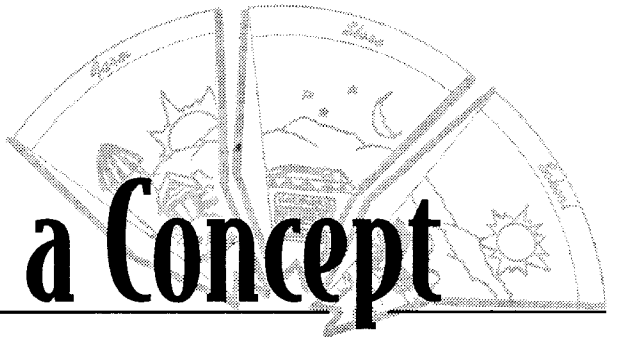
Sometimes when telling a story, you will need to show a graph or chart or demonstrate how to do something in order to help your audience understand the tale. The Missing Peace Puzzle Piece is an example of this kind of story. You need to show the puzzle pieces and to assemble the puzzle while telling the story to help your audience understand what the story means.

Read the story of the Missing Peace Puzzle Piece on pages four and five. Then learn how to create a magnetic puzzle on page three. Get ideas for telling the story with the Peace Puzzle as a floor puzzle, refrigerator magnets, or an overhead projector transparency by reading "Telling a Story and Demonstrating a Concept" on page two.

If you want, you can surprise your audience at the end by handing out puzzle piece magnets so that everyone can put one on their refrigerator to remember that they, too, are a very important part of the peace puzzle.



Telling a Story and Demonstrating a Concept



How you tell a story is more than just voice inflection, body movement, and eye contact. Sometimes you must adjust everything you are doing in order to convey a concept—the real meaning of the story.

When telling *The Missing Peace Puzzle Piece*, whether you are using magnetic puzzle pieces, a huge floor puzzle or and overhead projector, you will need to build to a climax. You want to show that your main character, Randy, is puzzled by the puzzle pieces that everyone esteems but nobody tries to put together. Encourage your audience to try to solve the puzzle with Randy as you all study the perimeter, or circumference, of the circle, convinced that eight pieces of the same size and shape would make a circle.

Watch your pacing as you put the puzzle together. Act surprised, and allow time for your audience to be surprised, when you all discover that the center piece is missing, the piece at the very heart of the puzzle.

Telling with Refrigerator Magnets

As you tell this story, place a puzzle piece onto the refrigerator (or file cabinet) in a row across the top as you come to it in the story.

Fit two or three pieces together as Randy tries to imagine if the puzzle fits together. At the end, assemble the puzzle without the center part.

Telling with a Huge Floor Puzzle


Tell the story with a huge floor puzzle the same as described above for a refrigerator magnet. Assemble the Peace Puzzle Pieces on the floor as you tell the story.

Telling with an Overhead Projector

Photocopy the Peace Puzzle onto an overhead projector transparency. Make two copies. Use one in the complete form and cut the other to create puzzle pieces to assemble as you tell the story. Show the completed one at the beginning and again at the end.

Distributing the Peace Puzzle Stars

No matter which way you choose to tell the story of

“The Missing Peace Puzzle Piece,” be prepared to hand out a Peace Puzzle Star to each person in the audience so that he or she can go home and hang it on his or her refrigerator or bulletin board to remember that he or she is an important part of the Peace Puzzle. 

Junior Storyteller

ISSN # 1087-7398

A Periodical Publication for boys and girls who want to be storytellers.

Published four times a year by:

Storycraft Publishing

Masc.....,

Editor: Vivian Dubrovin

Layout & Design: Liz Mrofka

Peace Puzzle illustration ©1997

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“The Missing Peace Puzzle Piece” is reprinted with permission of the author from the book *Storytelling*

Adventures: Stories Kids Can Tell, Storycraft Publishing, 1997.

Subscription Rate:

One year (four issues) \$11.95

Quantity discounts are available for clubs, classrooms, or workshops.

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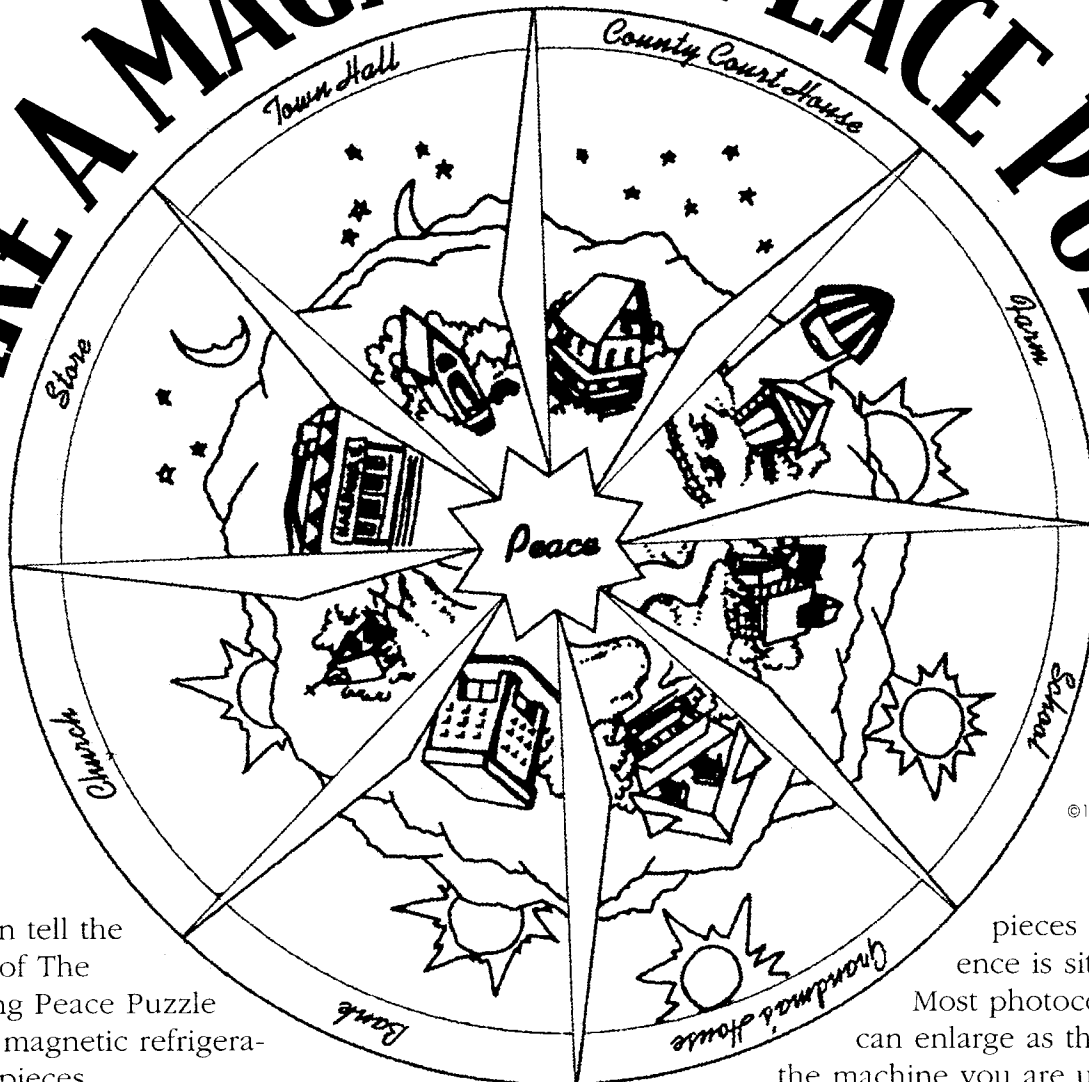
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Using the Peace Puzzle & Peace Stars as Crafts

You may want to create the Peace Puzzle and the Stars as a craft for an afterschool storytelling club or a storytelling party and let your audience practice retelling the story with their own puzzles.



MAKE A MAGNETIC PEACE PUZZLE



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You can tell the story of The Missing Peace Puzzle Piece with magnetic refrigerator puzzle pieces.

pieces if your audience is sitting far away. Most photocopy machines can enlarge as they copy. If the machine you are using does not

For the magnetic peace puzzle, you will need:

- heavy paper or cardboard
- magnetic tape (available at craft and hardware stores)

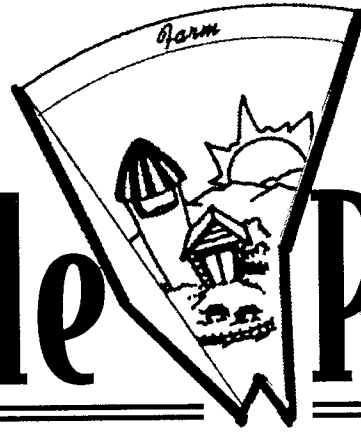
To make a magnetic peace puzzle:

1. Photocopy the Peace Puzzle onto heavy paper or cardboard. You may need bigger puzzle

2. Cut out the peace puzzle circle.
3. Cut the puzzle on the dark lines.
4. Cut a 1-inch piece of magnetic tape.
5. Remove the backing from the tape and stick it onto the back of the puzzle piece.
6. Put magnetic tape pieces on the back of each puzzle piece.



The Missing Peace Puzzle Piece



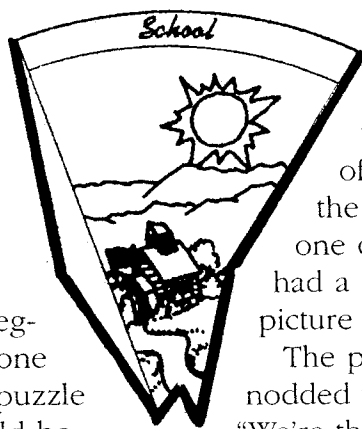
Randy learned about the Legend of the Peace Puzzle almost as soon as he and his family moved into the valley. A Peace Puzzle Piece came with the farm his parents bought. It was the oldest farm in the valley.

The Peace Puzzle Piece hung in a glass case on the living room wall. It was an honor to own one of the pieces and the former owners were very proud of it. They told Randy's family how the farm had been chosen, and how their great grandparents had made the display case. They told about a legend that said if anyone could ever put the puzzle together, there would be peace in the valley.

Randy's family hadn't lived on the farm long before they learned about "peace in the valley." Never had they lived in a place where people argued, disagreed and got angry with each other like the folks in this area. Why, some older men carried grudges from arguments they'd had in kindergarten.

Randy stared at the puzzle piece in the case on his living room wall many times that summer. He studied the picture of the farm on it. Mostly, he wondered why everyone hung the pieces on their walls. If they knew the legend, why didn't someone try to put the puzzle together? He wondered where were the other pieces?

When Randy started school that fall, he found the



second puzzle piece. It was in a display case on the wall in the school office. It was exactly the same shape as the one on his wall, but it had a different picture, a picture of a school.

The principal smiled and nodded toward the case. "We're the oldest school."

One of Randy's new friends, a boy named Jake, said that his grandmother had a puzzle piece because she lived in the oldest house in the valley. Jake said everybody knew where the eight pieces were, because everybody was so proud of them.

Randy wanted to see all the pieces. He was sure there must

be a way to put them together. This valley needed someone to try.



Randy and Jake made a list of the places with puzzle pieces.

The first piece was at his farm, the oldest farm.

The second was at school, the oldest school.

The third was at Jake's grandmother's, the oldest house in town.

The fourth was at the oldest bank.

The fifth was at the oldest church.

The sixth was at the hardware shop, the oldest store.

The seventh was in the mayor's office in the old town hall.

The eighth was at the original county court house.

Randy visited each place to see every piece. All were the same shape, but each had a different picture.

Randy asked the preacher at the oldest church how to get the pieces together.

The preacher laughed. "You

believe the legend?"

"I believe in trying," said Randy.

"There's always hope." The preacher smiled. "I'll help if I can."

So they both agreed to talk to all of the Peace Puzzle Piece guardians.

The mayor shook his head at Randy. "There's a piece missing," he said. "That's why nobody tries anymore. You can't put a puzzle together if there's a piece missing."

Randy stared at the display case on his wall. If there were eight pieces, each the same size and shape, they would make a circle. He was sure of it.

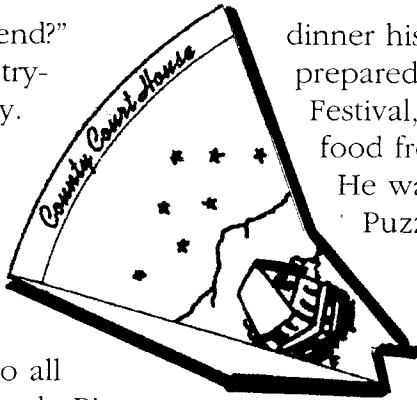
It was the school principal who told Randy about the traditional Harvest Festival. On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the valley held a celebration at the fairgrounds. That might be a good time, Randy thought, to put the puzzle together.

"It would certainly be something to be thankful for," agreed Randy's father.

So Randy talked to the preacher, the principal, and Jake's grandparents. His father talked to the banker and the hardware store owner. The principal talked to the mayor and the postmaster.

When the mayor telephoned to tell Randy the good news, he laughed. "I've never seen so many people in this valley agreeing on anything. It's an historic moment."

At Thanksgiving, Randy could hardly eat the wonderful



dinner his whole family had prepared. At the Harvest Festival, he only tasted bits of food from the pot luck table. He wanted to see the Peace Puzzle together.

Finally, the time came. The mayor lifted the cover on a special display case he had ordered built to hold the puzzle as it was assembled.

Randy put his piece in first. As others inserted their pieces, it was obvious that they were all connected by a rising and setting sun, stars and moon.

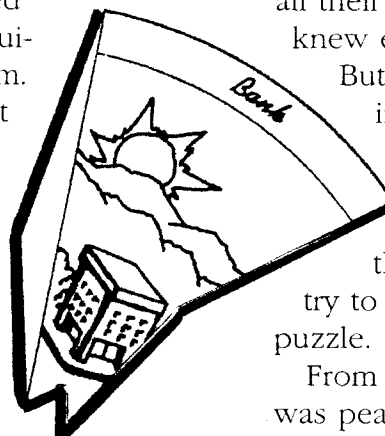
When the last piece was in place, the puzzle was a circle. But everyone gasped. Randy saw it, too. He was right, but so was the mayor. The center piece was missing.

Tremendous disappointment swept over Randy. A murmur swept around the room. The puzzle was not complete.

The mayor solemnly closed the glass lid over the case. "Let's leave it on display until the end of the festival tomorrow morning, as a memorial to how close we came to peace."

His voice choked and everyone quietly left the room. Everyone except Randy. He kept staring at the puzzle. It was a shame to come so close.

Then Randy got his idea.



He slipped a piece of paper under the puzzle and traced the shape of the center piece, an eight-pointed star. He took the pattern home.

In his garage he found a thin piece of wood. He couldn't find the right tools, but still he worked late into the night to create a piece that might fit.

In the morning he slipped the new puzzle piece inside his jacket and hurried to the fairgrounds. The room where the puzzle was on display was crowded with people. The mayor stood beside the

table. As he lifted the glass cover, he gave a little speech about the noble effort.


"Wait!" yelled Randy from the back of the room. He ran through the crowd, up to the table, waving the new puzzle piece in the air. "I found it!"

As he reached the table he turned to the crowd behind him. Everyone was waving a new peace puzzle piece. They all had done the same thing.

Some made their piece out of wood. Others used metal, plastic or cardboard, whatever materials they had or could find.

Everyone looked around at all their neighbors. Everyone knew each piece would fit.

But nobody put a piece into the puzzle. They all took them home and hung them on the wall to show that they cared enough to try to complete the peace puzzle.

From that moment on, there was peace in the valley. 

L king for More

Storytelling Ideas, Activities, Crafts, Sample Stories, and Advice?

We hope you've enjoyed this project from one of our classic issues of *Junior Storyteller*, presented to you by The Kids' Storytelling Club. At the Club you'll find similar storytelling fun, with new ideas and tips, as well as timeless favorites like this, all to help young storytellers, like you!

Come join us!

The Kids'
STORYTELLING
CLUB

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PUBLISHING
Loveland, Colorado

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