

The Kids' STORYTELLING CLUB

Featured Project!

From Our Archives

The Enduring Mystery of Peace

By Vivian and Barbara Dubrovin

A good story is worth remembering. A good story is worth retelling. A good story never goes out of style. There are stories created hundreds, even thousands, of years ago that are still being adapted and retold today.

The Kids' Storytelling Club since 1996 has been helping kids create and tell stories, so in 2021, it is twenty-five years! Initially, the site featured a complete project (activity, craft, and story) every few months. We're celebrating now by featuring a project from those early years. And projects about peace, like this one, are still popular favorites.

But what is peace? Is it just a lack of violence? Or can a lack of peace be when people are fearful, angry, or just not talking to each other? Peace means different things to different people. Finding the whole story of peace can be like gathering clues of a mystery, or pieces of a puzzle. The whole of peace can only truly be seen when everyone has a chance to say their piece of it.

This is a great activity for a club, but you'll find that your friends, neighbors, or other young storytellers have stories too. And gathering the pieces to tell together will help you see how informal story sharing can become a real storytelling event.

This project was reformatted to pdf and uses original higher resolution images (no need to shrink them to download on modems anymore!) but otherwise, is just as it was when it was published in 1997. An updated version is planned for our new book available in 2022, but we thought you'd like to see this original classic. How would YOU update or adapt it? Maybe you would: use email or text message invitations? modify the story with a similar experience (see the Story Shelf page for more about creating stories from examples)? or maybe do storytelling worldwide online?

However you do it, we think you'll agree that creating an opportunity for everyone to say their piece of peace will be a storytelling event worth remembering.

You can find another peace puzzle project in: *Storytelling Adventures* by Vivian Dubrovin. And look for our new book: *You Can Become A Storyteller!* Available 2022

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Peace Stories

What is peace? Does “peace” mean the same thing to everyone? How do you find clues? How do you put all the pieces together?

To help you create and tell, here are story ideas, a pattern story, a craft, and an activity to tell your peace mystery story. You can read through in order, or skip to what you want to do first.

The [STORY](#)

Learn how to create a Peace-Piece Mystery Story from your own experiences. Read a pattern story of *Karlina's Crafty Secret*.

The [CRAFT](#)

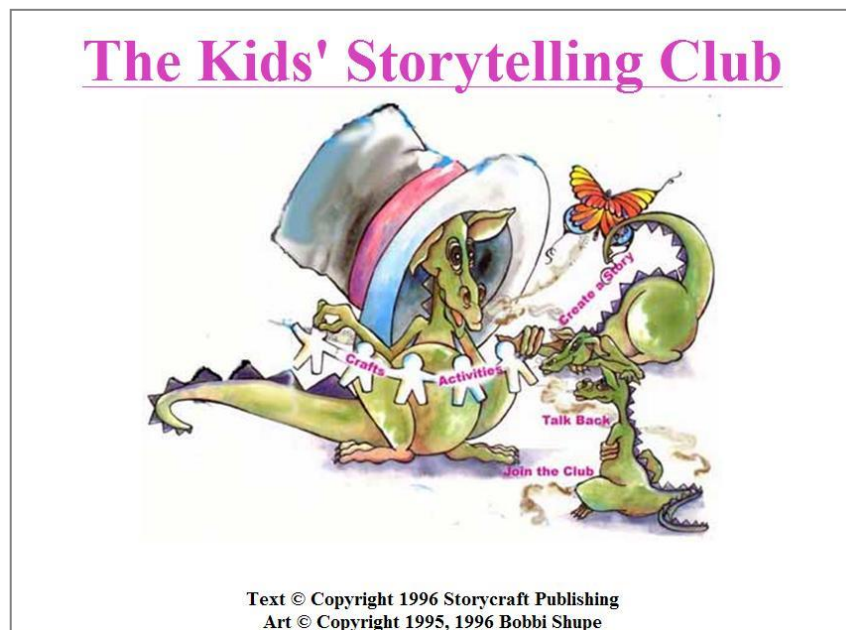
Learn to put the pieces together. Make a unique concert program.

The [ACTIVITY](#)

Learn how to collect Peace-Piece Stories for a storytelling concert.

Extra [TIPS](#)

To make your storytelling more fun.



When this project was published on the site in 1997, the Home Page looked like this, as it did for our first few years. It was just this image, plus a few links at the bottom. Visitors could click on parts of the image to go to pages.

Ideas for Creating

Peace-Piece Mystery Stories

Peace doesn't come all at once in a great big package. It grows, one small piece at a time. It can begin with a little act of kindness, a tiny bit of understanding, a speck of tolerance. How and where and why those little pieces begin can be a mystery. Usually the secret lies in a story-behind-the-story.

Finding and discovering those stories-behind-the-stories can take a little bit of detective work. But, it's also a lot of fun. Creating and telling those stories-behind-the-stories can help promote a lot of understanding.

Often things aren't what they seem. Someone may seem selfish who is really very caring. Another person may appear mean while actually doing a kind deed. How can you find out what is really happening?

Read the following story and then see if you can create a similar one of your own.

Karlina's Crafty Secret By Vivian Dubrovin

"There she is! She's doing it again," Nettie mumbled in a whisper. "She's scooping everything off the table and into her pink sack."

I watched Karlina clean the leftover craft supplies off the desks.

"It makes me so mad!" Nettie continued.

"She does it after every craft session, I added. "At school, at the rec center, even at scout meetings." I watched her pick up tiny bits of construction paper, balls of cotton, and even almost empty glue bottles. Everything went into the pink pillowcase sack.

"Talk about greedy!" Nettie huffed. "Talk about selfish!"

"It's almost like stealing," I added.

"We've got to stop her!" Nettie banged her hand on the table.

"Stop her?" I had never thought of stopping her. How could we?

"We need a plan," said Nettie. "Let's ask Julie. She always has good ideas."

Mystery of Peace

Julie usually had good ideas, but this time she just sat there and looked at us. "Maybe she's not really greedy. Maybe she'd share stuff if we asked," Julie said. "Let's ask her after rec club."

"Maybe we should just collect everything before she gets there," said Nettie. "We're going to make pinecone wreaths today. We could use left over pinecones."

But Karlina began collecting leftovers as soon as kids finished their projects, and she started to leave early. I cornered her in the hall. "Could Nettie and I have a couple of pinecones? We're going to show some preschoolers how to make peanut butter and birdseed feeders."

Her face fell and she looked very disappointed. She peered into the sack, stuck her arm in and began counting. Finally she pulled out one pinecone. "I've only got one extra. I was going to use it to demonstrate, but you can have it."

I took the pinecone and said, "Thanks" not too nicely.

"We've got to think of a better plan," said Nettie.

"I wonder *why* she wants the stuff. What does she do with it?" Julie asked.

"What difference does it make!" I snapped at Julie.

"If we know why she wants the stuff and what she does with it, it might help us create a plan," Nettie suggested.

"Maybe," Julie said, "we could offer to help her. Then we could find out"

"Now, *that* sounds like a plan." I said.

At the scout meeting, we all talked to Karlina together. She was delighted to have our help. Could we be at her house at 7 tonight? Her mother would drive them there.

All the way home, the three of us congratulated each other on our splendid plan. We were finally going to discover why Karlina collected all the craft scraps. Once we discovered why, we could put an end to it.

But none of us was prepared for what we found. As soon as we walked into the church basement, a bunch of kids gathered around us. Two girls tried to peek into Karlina's bag. "What did you bring us this time? What will we make today?"

But Karlina held the bag tightly closed. "First," she said, "I want you to meet my new helpers, Marla, Nettie, and Julie. Please show them what we've been making."

Mystery of Peace

They didn't have to show us. Nettie and Julie and I were walking around the room looking at all the things hanging on the walls, crafts just like we had been making in school, at rec club and in scouts. Karlina had been teaching these kids how to do the same things with all the scraps that she had collected.

Karlina put the pink sack on a table, reached in and pulled out a pinecone. "My friends are going to show you how to make a wreath or a bird feeder with pinecones."

Karlina had brought a jar of peanut butter, a can of birdseed and a few plastic spoons. I worked with the youngest kids.

Nettie and Julie helped Karlina work with the older kids.

A couple boys brought over a large bag of pinecones they had collected. A lady came by with another jar of peanut butter and some Styrofoam pieces for the wreaths. So many people were helping.

On the way home, I asked Karlina if she wanted me to help again next week.

"Oh, yes," she said. "We can use all the help we can get." And she invited Nettie and Julie to join her, too.

"How different everything is," I whispered to Nettie as we got out of the car, "when you know *why* someone is doing something."

More Information

To learn how to make a storytelling concert program,
go to the [CRAFT](#) Section

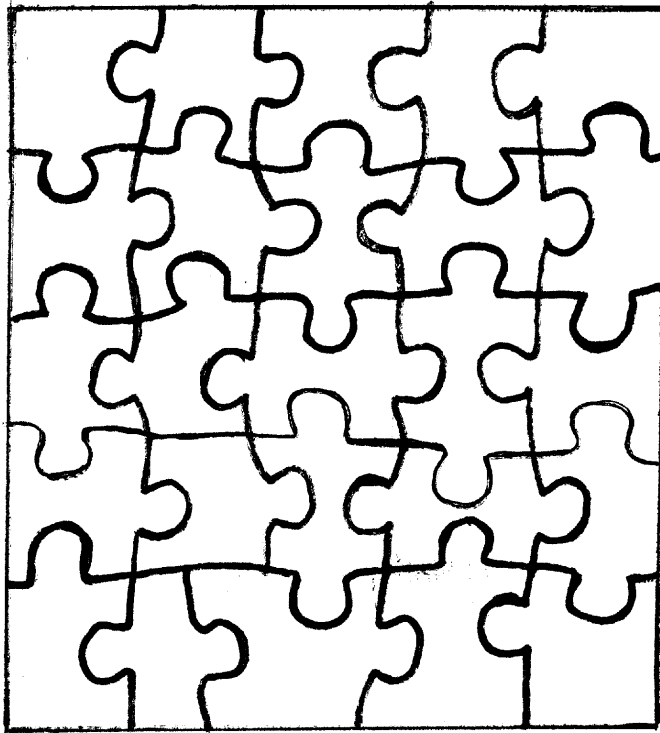
To learn how to collect Peace-Piece Stories,
go to the [ACTIVITY](#) Section

For extra Telling Tips,
Go to the [TIPS](#) Section

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How to Make Peace-Piece Puzzle Concert Programs

Although peace pieces come in different shapes and sizes, they all fit together. Your storytelling concert program can help show how they do.

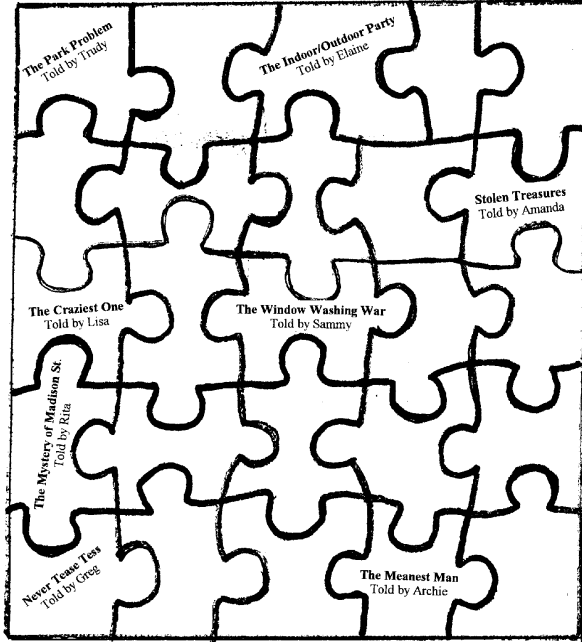


Create a program that looks like a jigsaw puzzle.

Print the names of the stories and the storytellers on each piece

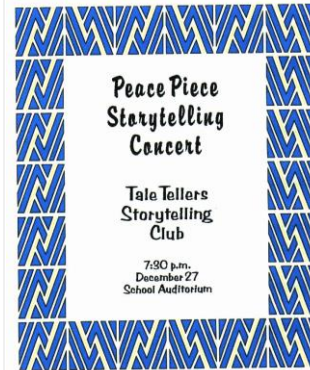


Mystery of Peace



Fill in the extra pieces
with colors
or designs if there are not
enough storytellers to use
all the puzzle pieces.

Put the name of the concert, date, etc.
on the backside to create a unique program
for your audience.



More Information

To learn how to collect Peace-Piece Stories,
go to the [ACTIVITY](#) Section

For ideas on how to create a Peace-Piece Story,
go to the [STORY](#) Section

For extra Telling Tips,
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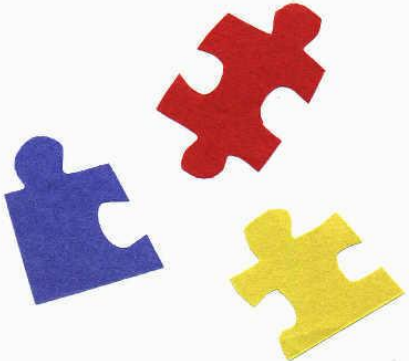
How to Host

Peace-Piece Story Concerts

Peace can mean different things to different people. One person may dream of a peaceful family where everyone gets along with each other. Someone else may long for a peaceful neighborhood where it's safe to walk home any time of day or night. Another person may find peace in the opportunity to try to achieve a goal.

It may seem that with so many different ideas of what peace is, or could be, that peace-piece stories would be different, too. They might, but usually the themes of the stories are quite similar, a misunderstanding that led to understanding, an act of kindness that led to a discovery, a bit of bravery that uncovered a truth.

Having Sharing Story Sessions is a good way to collect peace-piece stories.

<p>Collecting peace-piece stories is contagious. Once you tell one, your friends will remember similar tales. Their tales will remind you of other stories. It goes on and on.</p>	
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Practice sharing peace-piece stories at storytelling club meetings, in your classroom, or at lunch. After your friends have collected some stories, too, plan to have a storytelling concert. A storytelling concert is just like a music concert, only the performers tell stories instead of playing music.

For ideas on how to create peace-piece stories,
Go to the [STORY](#) Section

To learn how to make a Peace-Piece Puzzle Concert Program,
go to the [CRAFT](#) Section

For extra Telling Tips,
Go to the [TIPS](#) Section

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Extra Telling Tips

This is a good project for a storytelling club. You may want to join or create a club to continue the storytelling activities.

Kids Storytelling Projects clubs may want to report on what peace stories they told.

Kids Storytelling Projects clubs may want to show the programs they create.

For ideas on how to create peace-piece stories,
Go to the [STORY](#) Section

To learn how to make a Peace-Piece Puzzle Concert Program,
go to the [CRAFT](#) Section

To learn how to collect Peace-Piece Stories,
go to the [ACTIVITY](#) Section

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L king for More

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

We hope you've enjoyed this favorite project from our archives, presented free to all storytellers, by The Kids' Storytelling Club. At the Club you'll find more storytelling fun like this, with new ideas and timeless favorites, all to help you become a better storyteller.

The Kids'
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www.storycraft.com

Where Are We?

Storycraft Publishing for many years has been helping kids tell stories. Some of our print books and ebooks were published when we were located in Masonville, Colorado, and those still have our old address. You won't find us there anymore, we're now in Loveland, Colorado. But we're still at our same online home, www.storycraft.com. And you can contact us by email anytime: info@storycraft.com

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