The 2022 Storytelling World Resource Awards

Storytelling World, storytellingworld.com, has recently made several changes in its annual awards program, primarily due to a gradual global shift in the perception of “storytelling,” and in the evolution and expansion of story performances, sometimes in seemingly opposite directions—from formal, traditional platform storytelling sliding through the spectrum to slam-style presentations. [To watch a wide variety of these story performances and events, periodically navigate Internet sites such as the National Storytelling Network (NSN): https://storynet.org, the International Storytelling Center (ISC): storytellingcenter.net, The American School of Storytelling: http://www.AmericanSchoolofStorytelling.com/, etc.] Due to the vast numbers of these stories and the impossibility for judges to fairly and adequately sample and curate them all, we will be refocusing our current and future awards more in the direction of the INFORMATIONAL aspects of storytelling resources (manuals, guidebooks, classes, etc.). We will continue to include some examples of recorded performances and occasional stories in children’s books, and we still strongly encourage nominations of story anthologies/collections. See more details about our new focus (and our guidelines for nominating digital resources) on our web site: storytellingworld.com/Awards/detdead.htm.

Below are the 2022 awards (in random order) that reflect a hybrid of our past goals along with our more recent changes.

Winners

Storytelling: Art and Technique, 5th Edition
Edited by Janice M. Del Negro
Libraries Unlimited, an imprint of ABC-CLIO, abc-clio.com
An update of a beloved classic, with fourteen articles by renowned professionals who provide comprehensive coverage of storytelling in today’s world.

Storytelling Basics in 8 Hours
Story Crossroads (Academy)
storycrossroads.org/FreeWorkshops or tinyurl.com/free8hrcourse
A free online course facilitated by Rachel Hedman, Founding Executive Director of Story Crossroads. Ten genres are performed by George McEwan (Liars Tale), Janine Nishiguchi (Folktale), Kira Larkin (Original Fairy Tale), Laurie Allen (Legend), Jim Luter (Myth), Thom Manning (Personal Narrative), Clive Romney (Historical Tale), Julie Barnson (Ghost Story), Suzanne Hudson (Literary Tale), and Karl Behling (Fable or Wisdom Tale). ASL is provided by Chip Royce. This self-led, done-at-your-own-pace course with four video-guided modules (Finding Your Story; Developing Your Story; Teller’s Role, Habits & Performing Skills; and Polishing Your Performance) teaches youth and adults how to craft and perform a story while being introduced to ten different genres and three main story crafting structures.

Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol
Edited and performed by Tim Lowry
StorytellerTimLowry.com
Digital download. See, hear, and taste one of the world’s most famous ghost stories as Tim blends dramatic scenes from the novel with cooking demonstrations from his own kitchen. Bonus features include a holiday pudding recipe, reading list downloads, and a few surprises!

Prepare to Scare
by Elizabeth Ellis
Parkhurst Brothers, parkhurstbrothers.com
A guide to telling scary stories that includes writing tips, suggested stories, and an abundance of additional resources gleaned not only from Elizabeth’s experiences but also those from several prominent storytellers. Margaret Read MacDonald described this book as “a well-organized trip through the pleasures and pitfalls of attempting to scare folks!”
Queer Folk Tales
by Kevin Walker
The History Press, thehistorypress.co.uk
A collection of fifteen folktale-based stories featuring central characters from the LGBTQ+ community. These sometimes traditional and sometimes modern tales show queer people that they belong not only in today’s world but also in a storytelling tradition going back centuries, if not millennia. This is a collection for adult LGBTQ+ readers and their allies to enjoy and continue to tell for years to come, introducing characters who are romantic, brave, mysterious, or fantastical—but always authentic.

Cripple Joe: Stories from My Daddy
by Donald Davis
Parkhurst Brothers, parkhurstbrothers.com
Eighteen personal stories about Davis’s father (Cripple Joe) that are appealing to both young adults and older listeners. These nostalgic recollections are primarily from Donald’s boyhood, and they can prompt listeners to delve back into their childhood and explore their own memories.

Graveyard Tales of the Lowcountry
Edited and performed by Tim Lowry
StorytellerTimLowry.com
Digital download. Over two hours of spooky stories filmed on location in the historic graveyard of St. Paul’s Church in Summerville, SC. These tales are designed to crawl up your spine and tickle your funny bone. Bonus features include craft demos, book reviews, games, album downloads, and more!

Boo Stew
by Donna L. Washington
Peachtree Publishing Company
peachtreebooks.com/book/boo-stew/
A delightfully spooky fractured fairy tale with diverse characters and an imaginative twist on the classic Goldilocks. In this picture book for ages 4-8, Washington breathes new life into a traditional motif.

Liars, Damn Liars, and Storytellers
by Joseph Sobol
University of Tennessee Press, utpress.org/title/liars-damn-liars-and-storytellers
Essays on cultural history, critical analysis, and personal narratives that showcase the efforts of traditional and contemporary storytellers to make their presence felt in the world.

Read and Tell Stories
by Rosie Best-Cutrer
Parkhurst Brothers, parkhurstbrothers.com
An informational book of story samples for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other loving adults. Section one has eleven stories for younger listeners and seven for older—each with presentation tips for the teller. Subsequent sections offer information for how to organize family telling and listening experiences to achieve optimum results.
Honors

**Storytelling and Ecology**  
by Anthony Nanson  

An in-depth examination of how a diverse ecosystem of oral stories and the dynamics of storytelling as an activity can catalyze different kinds of conversation and motivation, helping tellers resist the discourse of powerful vested interests. A pioneering ecolinguistic and ecocritical study of oral storytelling in the modern world, this book offers insight into the ways that sharing stories in each other’s embodied presence can open up spaces for transformation in our relationships with the ecological world around us.

**Clever, Kind, Tricky, & Sly**  
by Priscilla Howe  
Parkhurst Brothers, parkhurstbrothers.com

A sampler of Bulgarian folktales.

**Kindness Tales: World Folktales to Talk About**  
by Margaret Read MacDonald  
August House Inc., Publishers, augusthouse.com

A book of forty folktales that illustrate the transformative power of kindness by leading, sharing, and caring for one another through simple acts. These timeless tales from the world’s great oral traditions are a delight to read or tell to a group, simply enjoy as a quiet reading experience, or use as a personal meditation for reflecting more deeply on the impact of quiet acts of kindness. The stories also teach the important role that fairness and personal responsibility contribute to the world. Some of the tales easily engage preschool and primary school-aged children while others are more thought-provoking and stimulating for teens and adults. Reference notes, source information, and suggestions for further reading are also provided.

**Blast Off! and other childhood adventures**  
CD by Anne Rutherford  
anne-norm.com

Five childhood personal stories.

**The New Digital Storytelling**  
(Revised and Updated Edition)  
by Bryan Alexander  
Praeger, an imprint of ABC-CLIO, abc-clio.com

Information about how technology can impact storytelling productions.

**Tomorrow’s Storytellers Today**  
Contributors: Jill Howe, Scott Whitehair, Ward Rubrecht, Amanda Claire Buckley, Csenge Virág Zalka, Danielle Bellone, Alison Bergblom Johnson, Charles Parrott, Cooper Braun, Marie Lupien-Durocher, Petronella Van Dijk, Carolina Quiroga-Stultz, Caleb Winebrenner, Dustin K. Loehr, Holly and Audrey Robison, Sadarri Saskill, Katie Knutson, Allison Broeren, Michael D. McCarty, Rama Idrees, Donte Woods-Spikes, and Cassie Cushing; collected by Kevin Cordi.  
Parkhurst Brothers, parkhurstbrothers.com

Essays about the future of storytelling.
Vessel of Promises: A Bookish Fable
by Stephen Cowan and Ed Young
Philomel, penguin.com/youngreaders
A poetic storybook with a poignant text for ages 4-8. This book celebrates the power and magic within the stories we read. It is a tribute to librarians everywhere who keep our dreams alive.

The Clothesline Code: The Story of Civil War Spies Lucy Ann and Dabney Walker
by Janet Halfmann
Bandylane Publishers, bookshop.org
A nonfiction picture book for ages 6-11. This is a forgotten-to-history story about an African-American spy couple during the Civil War. This true story took place when the Union army was encamped near Falmouth, VA. Dabney and Lucy Ann Walker, who escaped to Union lines, came up with an ingenious code using laundry on a clothesline. This story of sacrifice and bravery shows that when we have courage and compassion for the world around us, even the simplest items can become powerful tools for change.

Treaty Words
by Aimee Craft
Annick Press, annickpress.com
A story (for ages 12-adult) that affirms the importance of understanding an Indigenous perspective on treaties. The narrative emphasizes not only how all beings have a part to play in making sure Mother Earth continues to thrive, but also the unspoken and unwritten agreements among all parts of Creation.

Fifteen Pounds of Muscle and Bounce
by Harriet Cole
Small-Tooth-Dog Publishing Group, muscleandbounce.com
Eight unusual Norse tales, for ages 10+.

Ten Beautiful Things
by Molly Beth Griffin
charlesbridge.com
A heartfelt story of changing perspectives, set in the Midwest. The story gently explores loss, a new home, and finding beauty wherever you are. For ages 5-8.

The Diffendaffer Taffy Cafe and Other Stories
CD by Laura K. Deal
lauradeal.com
A CD with one original tall tale and six traditional folk tales from around the world, some retold with a twist. For children ages 5-12.

90 Lies an Hour
CD and downloadable MP3 by Paul Strickland
AintTrue.com
Four family-friendly, “mostly false” tales.

Thanks for evolving with us as storytelling grows and changes into new forms, reaching new listeners, new readers, and new tellers!