HOW TO TELL A STORY

1) Find a story you like.
2) Read the story.
3) Read the story again.
4) Read it one more time!
5) Think about the order in which things happen.
6) See the story as a filmstrip.
7) Read the story paying attention to the parts you forget and over which you stumble.
8) Look for important or beautiful phrases you want to keep exact. Memorize them.
9) Try telling the story to yourself. Practice the rough places. Practice while waiting in the grocery line; at the doctor's office; in traffic.
10) Read the story.
11) Try telling the story to others (your kids while driving or making dinner) or even try yourself in the mirror (horrors!) or on video. The more you tell it, the better it will become.
12) When you feel you really know the words of the tale begin working on what the words mean and how to express that meaning.
13) Read the story again!
14) Do not 'act out' the story. This is not acting!
    This is storytelling. Let the language tell the story!
15) Watch out for common faults:
    Speaking too fast
    Speaking too slowly
    Speaking too softly
    Speaking with too high a voice
    Failing to maintain eye contact
    Using distracting gestures
16) If you forget or go blank, don't panic, just think!
17) Read the story again.
18) Share the story you like with enthusiasm and your audience will reward you with their attention and enthusiasm, too.
19) After a story is told, encourage others to tell it because the story is theirs after they have heard it. It is ours.
20) Find a place to tell the story again.

-- Cheryl Ryan and Marc Harshman
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   Pale Horse.]
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