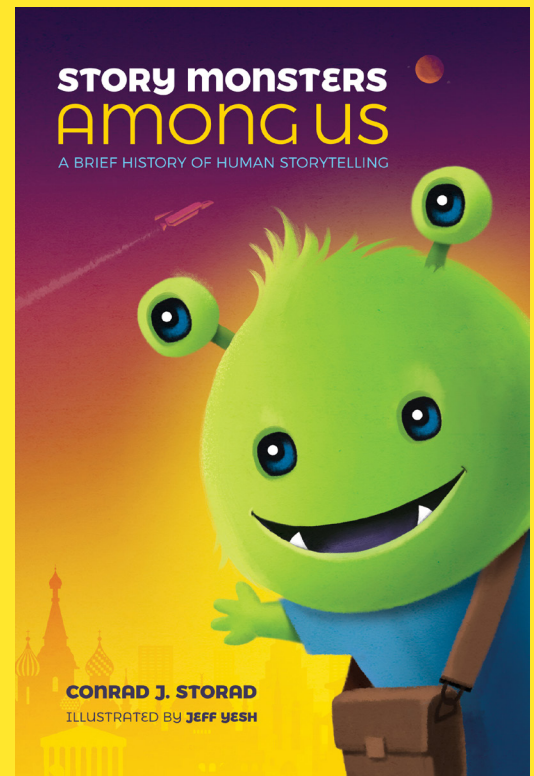


STORY MONSTERS AMONG US

A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMAN STORYTELLING

BY **CONRAD J. STORAD**
ILLUSTRATED BY **JEFF YESH**



ACTIVITY GUIDE

written by
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Age Range: 6 years and up

As you've learned from reading this story, all cultures since the beginning of humans have been storytellers. Now it's your turn! With your parent or other adult, use these hands-on activities to help you become a dynamic storyteller.

PREHISTORIC PAST

Cave Art and Petroglyphs

Take a virtual tour of the French caves:

- » Chauvet cave paintings:
youtu.be/3OLaNtKoJFk
- » Lascaux cave and rock art around the world:
bradshawfoundation.com/lascaux/

Discuss.

1. How realistic are these drawings?
2. What do you think made the different colors?
3. What are the animals?
4. Do we have these animals today?

Be creative.

Make your own cave paintings with finger paint:

- » You'll need: butcher paper (a paper grocery bag cut open works well to mimic stone walls) and fingerpaint.
- » Options for finger paint:
 - Chocolate and vanilla pudding **OR**
 - Tub of vanilla frosting and Red, Green, Blue, and Yellow food coloring.
 - **Directions:** With an adult's help, divide the frosting between 4 small bowls. Add 2 drops of food coloring into the frosting and stir. Keep mixing in 1 to 2 drops of food coloring until you get the color and shade you want.
- » Choose three animals and your handprint to draw.

Make your own rock art:

- » You'll need: flat rocks or pieces of rough tile, sidewalk chalk, pencil, and paper.
- » Use the chalk to draw figures and symbols on the rocks or tile.
- » Use paper to create a legend of what each symbol means.
- » Tell a story with the drawings.



ANCIENT PAST

Pictographs and Early Writing

Early forms of writing:

Pictographs: Paintings of animals, shapes, or people usually found on stones, the walls of caves, or in places protected from the weather. Emojis are an example of pictographs used today. 😊 = **smiling or happy.**

Practice.

Draw pictographs for the following:

- » The dog is eating.
- » It is windy.
- » There are five balls in the basket.



Hieroglyphics: A system of writing based on the use of pictorial characters. The ancient Egyptians told stories by painting hieroglyphs on temple walls and in the tombs of pharaohs and other important rulers. View the alphabet in hieroglyphics:

egyptabout.com/2016/12/hieroglyphics-chart.html

Practice.

Write your name in hieroglyphics.

Cuneiform: Words or symbols written in clay as wedge-shaped characters.

Be creative.

Draw your own words or symbols in clay:

- » You'll need: Clay or playdough flattened to a slab and a plastic knife.
- » Playdough recipe. With the help of an adult, mix the following ingredients together:
 - 2 cups all-purpose flour
 - 1 cup salt
 - 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
 - 4 tablespoons vegetable oil
 - 2 cups boiling water with a couple drops of food coloring added
 - Keep covered tightly when not using
- » Draw three mountain peaks next to each other ^^^ in your clay or playdough to stand for mountains. Then, make marks for these words:
 - Square
 - Round
 - Triangle
 - Girl
 - Boy

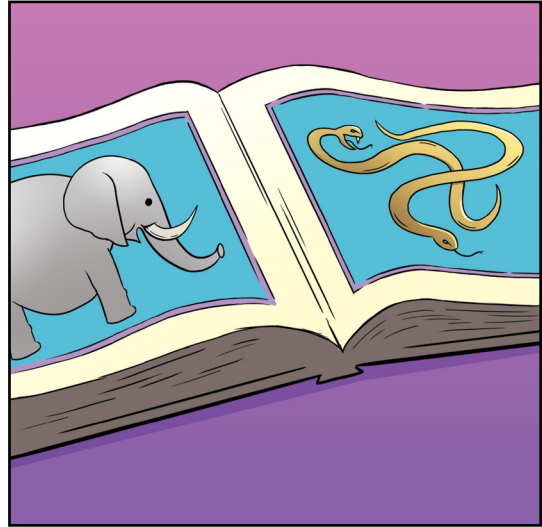
HISTORIC PAST

Books and Theater

Bestiary: A special book created by European monks during medieval times. The book contained colorful illustrations and stories about real and imaginary animals. Each story had a moral message. Take a virtual tour of The Medieval Bestiary: <http://bestiary.ca/>

Discuss.

1. Notice that the words on the intro page are in Latin: "*Incipit liber de naturis bestiarum. De leonibus et pardis et tigribus, lupis et vulpibus, canibus et simiis.*" Here is the text translated into English: "Here begins the book of the nature of beasts. Of lions and leopards and tigers, wolves and foxes, dogs and apes."
2. Which words are close to the words we now use in English?
3. Why do you think that animals are a good way to tell a story?



Be creative.

The invention of paper helped with the development of storytelling. Before there were printing presses, scribes and monks made beautiful books by hand.

Make your own paper (with the help of an adult):

- » You'll need: a blender, very small scraps of paper such as colored tissue paper, newspaper, or wrapping paper (a crosscut shredder works well), a plastic tub, a small window screen to fit over a tub, an old towel, waxed or parchment paper, and a couple of sheets of newspaper.
- » Place one-half cup scraps of paper with two cups of hot water in the blender to make a slurry. Set window screen over a plastic tub and pour the slurry mixture onto the screen. Use an old towel to push and spread evenly and drain the slurry. Put waxed or parchment paper on top of the drained slurry. Turn over the screen, slurry, and waxed paper together onto several sheets of newspaper and place on a surface suitable for wet paper. Remove the screen and let the paper dry for several days.
- » In your best penmanship, write a story about some of the animals listed in The Medieval Bestiary on your handmade paper.

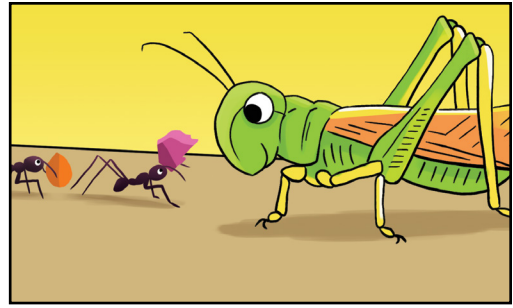
Act out a Fable:

» Aesop's Fables are short and have only a few animal characters and good dialog. The animal characters are fun to imitate. Follow this link to discover some of Aesop's fables:

read.gov/aesop/001.html

» Now, let's try telling a story by acting it out with dialog. Some fun fables to act out include: *The Hare and the Tortoise*, *The Fox and the Grapes*, and *The Grasshopper and the Ants*.

» Once you have practiced performing a couple of the fables, try creating your own story about how to wisely solve a problem, such as sharing with others, following a rule, or helping someone.



PRESENT DAY

Your Story

Be creative.

Get ready to tell a story using only noises! What if you made a sound story about having a snack? The first sound might be the rustle of opening a bag of chips. Then, the sound of your lips smacking together just as you get ready to open your mouth. Next, could be the sound of grinding and crunching as you chew the chips. Finally, if you listen closely enough, you could hear swallowing. What other sounds might you hear? What if the story starts with your dog panting, whining, and jumping around on the kitchen floor? What happens next? It's time to get creative! Record your story just with the sounds, no words, and and share it with a friend. See if they can understand what story the sounds are telling them.



FUTURE

Scientists continue to look for life on other planets. The NASA Voyager Golden Records, which were sent in the Voyager spacecraft in 1977, are records to tell a story to alien life forms about what life is like on Earth. They include photographs of people, cities, nature, and animals; recordings of greetings in many languages; and songs and sounds from around the world.

Visit this link to learn more about the NASA Voyager Golden Records:

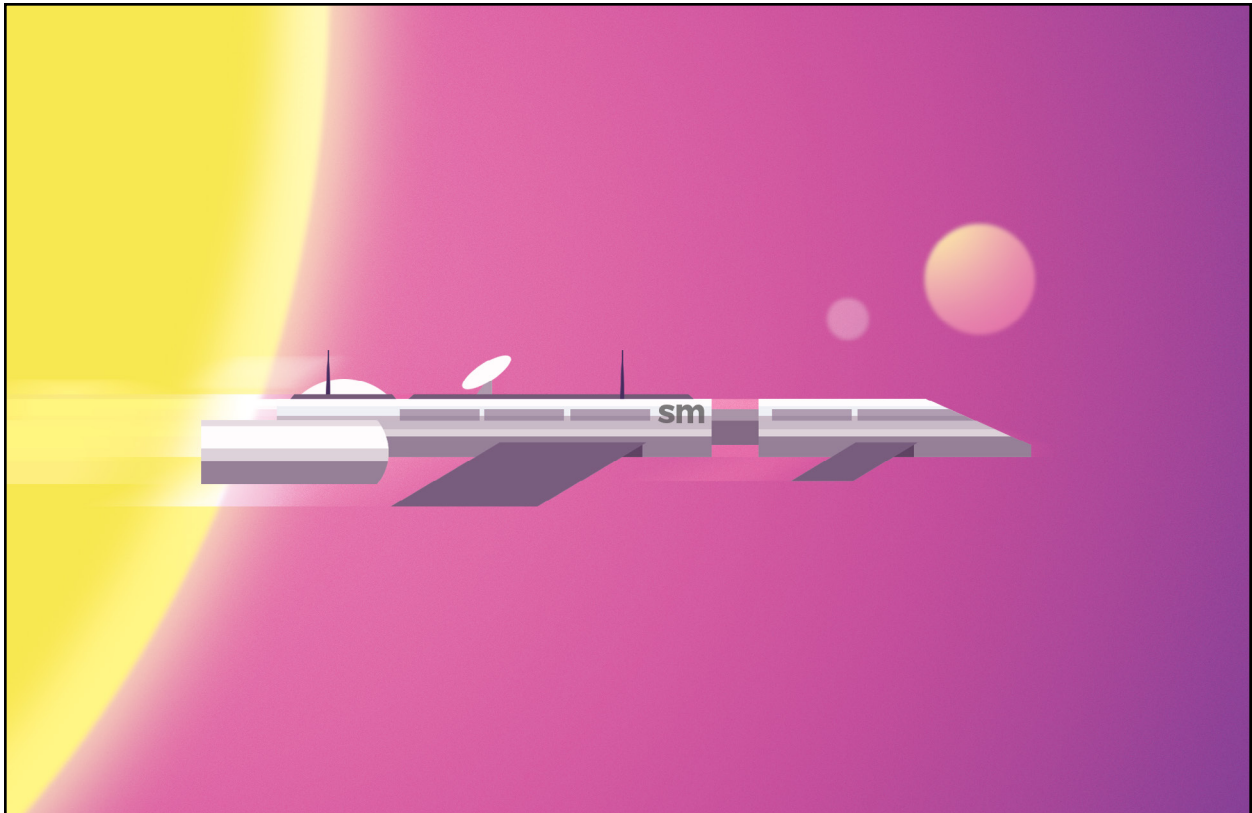
[vox.com/2015/11/11/9702090/voyager-golden-record-pictures](https://www.vox.com/2015/11/11/9702090/voyager-golden-record-pictures)

Be creative.

If you could send your own golden records to outer space, what would you want to include? What would you want alien life forms to know about you? Make a list and explain why each item is important to you.

Create a digital collage:

- » With an adult's help, download a collage-making app onto your device. PicCollage (piccollage.com) is a good one!
- » Think about the photos—family, clothes, school, hobbies, sports—you would want to send to explain your life to someone on another planet, and then create your collage.
- » Share your collage with a new friend and ask them to tell you what they have learned about you.



About Jean Kilker, M.A., M.Ed., NBPTS

Jean Kilker, M.A. (English), M.Ed. (Technology), NBPTS (National Board for Professional Teaching Standards), taught language arts, reading, computer science and general science. She is a teacher-librarian and a co-chair of the State Teacher-Librarian Organization. Kilker is a past Follett Librarian of the Year. She also taught and wrote curricula at the university level for continuing teacher education in ESL, elementary language arts, reading and librarianship. Also, Kilker has received grants and awards, currently from ALA Libraries Ready to Code, that benefit the students where she teaches. A native of Phoenix, Arizona, Kilker lives in Litchfield Park and keeps in touch with her three world-traveling children.

This reader's guide is available for free download at:

storymonstersamongusbook.com



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