

Jim Cogan

STORYTELLER



Literacy and the Oral Tradition

Jim Cogan Storyteller creates assemblies designed to teach students of all ages about the power of language, imagery, story, voice and culture. A complement to Social Studies, Language Arts, Performing Arts and Science Frameworks, the programs link folklore, fables, history, legends, myth and personal memory with animated storytelling skills giving students a creative and exciting 45 minutes of involved, focused educational programming. Using amazing sound effects, vivid facial expression, animated gesture, and a rich variety of picture words, Jim 'becomes' his original, adapted and retold tales to immerse students in the storytelling experience.

Jim designs every assembly individually. Drawing from a repertoire of 300 tales, he weaves age-appropriate stories (for example: K-3, 4-6, 7-8) through various curricular themes that complement curricula and are popular in those grade levels.

Elementary School Assemblies

Participation Tales (K-3) A diverse collection of fables and world folklore is presented in an engaging, audience-participation style to blend skills of prediction, repetition, sequencing, word play, rhythm and characterization with solid morals and a sense of self.



Storytelling in Language, Lore and History (4-6, 7-8) Highlighting history, folklore, mythology and personal memory with powerful and humorous tales of action, adventure and wonder, this assembly captures the essence of storytelling for the older, more advanced student.


Multicultural Magic (All ages) Experiencing this eclectic mix of animated and participatory tales students of all ages learn to appreciate that in the wonderful diversity the world offers there are many commonalities which bind all cultures together.

Bring Bullying to Bay (K-8) Jim has created two different age-appropriate programs for primary and secondary students to help educate students about bullying behavior, give them strategies to protect individuals and the school community and support policies to eliminate such behavior from school communities.

- **Primary K-3:** Jim weaves his hilariously animated fables and folktales with audience interaction to engage children to become aware of bullying behaviors and learn what they can do to rid their school of such hurtful actions.
- **Secondary 3-8:** Jim presents a humorous, yet powerful personal story that details how and why bullying creeps into schools and becomes pervasive. Jim gets students involved in problem solving as the story unfolds. The concluding epiphany highlights the need for empathy, cooperation, and action...no bystanders.



Red Ribbon Programs: The Language of Health. Jim has created interactive, age-appropriate assemblies for **Primary (K-3)**, **Secondary (4-6)** and Middle School ages to challenge students to make informed, good decisions, reject drug use and embrace those activities which lead to success in life. This is a wonderful way to combine artistic education with health education.



Read Across America (K-6) *Read Across America* Programs honor the memory of Dr. Seuss and all creative storytellers with a wacky character-rich collection of my age-appropriate adaptations of folklore and fables along with my original tales that weave word-play and audience participation into a memorable feast of fun. The goal is to motivate and stimulate students to know what storytelling is and inspire them to read and use this skill in a myriad of ways. It's a fun, fast forty-five minutes.

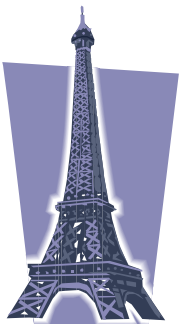
The Story of Character (All ages) Stories are selected for their universal appeal to good values and lessons for life. Themes include honesty, integrity, perseverance, loyalty, compassion, cooperation and courage and other concepts a school may wish to highlight.

Science in Story (K-6) The natural world has long been a favorite subject for fable, folklore, mythology and wonder. The fables of the animal world, myths of star and landscape formation or the folklore of why things are the way they are give everyone appreciation for how the natural world has been explained through the centuries.



California Here I Come: (4th and 3-8) The Gold Rush era and its varied impact on California is vibrantly re-lived through historical stories, narrative, folklore and fancy. This is a fast-paced, adventure-filled hour giving various perspectives of this life-changing period in California's history as well as the fate of the nation.

Middle School Assemblies (occasionally booked by secondary or K-8) includes:



Innovation and Invention: Jim weaves together some mesmerizing stories of the great inventors of the Industrial Revolution whose work provided the foundation for our modern world. Reliving the discoveries and work of people like Ben Franklin (*electricity*), Gustave Eiffel (*iron architect*), Samuel Morse (*telegraph*), Alfred Nobel (dynamite), Emily Warren Roebling (*the woman who built the Brooklyn Bridge*), Bertha and Carl Benz (*automobile*), Henry Ford (*assembly line production*), Thomas Edison (*system of light*) and others, Jim's message to students is that success is, indeed, a combination of inspiration and perspiration. It also is fraught with early failures that all of these individuals overcame to win success. Here are great messages for lifelong learning as well as fostering an understanding of how things work in our world of today. (*Grades 3-8*) Program outline is available.

Heroes and Heroines (4-8) Stories of famous people, tales of the most average souls; these are the stories of great deeds as well as everyday acts of courage that people of all societies have come to honor.

Mythology of the Ancient World (6-8) Powerfully told myths, full of wonder and adventure, help explain the cultures of ancient peoples from Greece and Rome to Chinese and Inuit.

Legends of the Medieval World (7-8) The stories many of us have forgotten: Beowulf, King Arthur, African Wonder Stories, Fool Tales of the Middle East, Hispanic Legends of the New World, Samurai Adventures and Classic Ghost Stories are brought to life.

American Stories (8th) Taken from American history and folklore or created from Jim Cogan's personal experiences, these stories illuminate American life and values, highlight memorable events and help us appreciate our ethnic and social diversity.



Jim creates many individualized assemblies to complement single-grade programs, honor/awards recognition events, and other special requests. If you have an event with a special theme not found in the above listings, Jim can create something unique to highlight your unique needs.