



This session is about the griot tradition of story telling.

Background information

- There is information about the griot tradition in the music section of this resource.

Resources

1. The Storyteller handout

The Session

Griots are storytellers who use stories in all sorts of ways – to mediate, to convey a moral message, to bring news, to entertain, and so on.

1. Invite learners to tell a story on a chosen theme, using the handout. This has the beginnings of a story, and learners can then add to it. They might choose:
 - A traditional story that they have been told.
 - A story to help build peace in the community or in the world.
 - A story that a storyteller might bring back from his/her travels around the world – maybe based on something they have seen or heard.
 - A story about their homeland or home.
2. Invite learners to re-tell their stories from memory. Working in pairs, they might compose music or use percussion instruments to embellish their stories.
3. Taffy Thomas is a storyteller from Grasmere in the UK. He has a Tale Coat. This is a beautiful silk coat embroidered with images of many different stories. Listeners are invited to choose one of the images, and Taffy will re-tell the story from memory.

As a group, you could take inspiration from the Tale Coat by creating a mural of pictures representing the stories you have created. Each story would have one image. Invite people to choose an image and see if the author can re-tell the story.