

Joan Leotta
Spoken Word
Artist and
Author



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*Encouraging words
through pen and
performance*

Why Story?

Story acts as a natural framework for our thoughts. Historically, cultures have passed along their traditions, legends, and behavior norms in story form. Stories allow listeners to store in their minds while their hearts enjoy vivid descriptions, gestures, sounds and rhythms of a tale. The National Council of Teachers of English says, “Oral storytelling is *“unsurpassed as a tool for learning about ourselves and about the ever increasing information available to us, and about the thoughts and feelings of others.”*”

Why Joan Leotta?

In more than twenty years of storytelling, Joan has been a featured presenter at schools, libraries, and festivals in Virginia, DC, North Carolina and Massachusetts. Her venues include Smithsonian Museums, Kennedy Center, and The White House in Washington DC. She also teaches storytelling, presentation techniques, and writing. Her own writing has won awards in a Poet in Virginia Award, and NC’s Lower Cape Fear Historical Society award.

What others say about Joan’s performances:

“Many thanks for the fantastic speech and story on Saturday. The NCRA board said we couldn’t have found a better person to speak to the reading/writing issues that we support. You did a wonderful job.”
Pat Fenton, Jessie Mae Monroe Elementary School, Calabash, NC

“Your storytelling is an unusual and treasured gift...I am delighted that you appeal to all ages!”
E. Schoetzau, Principal, Fairfax County.

“Our favorite part of the show was the radio drama (by Joan Leotta).”
Spy Museum, Washington DC.

“You had a rapt audience.”
Jay Kohn, Kennedy Center.

“We want to hire you again!”
Pat Goodwin, Exec Dir. Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum

Programs Available

For Schools, Museums, Festivals and Other Family Audiences:

- **Anti-bullying, Taming the Tongue**
- **Field Trips Without A Bus** (A variety of curriculum related shows using folklore)
- **Power of Words** (Writing Program)
- **Banishing Butterflies** (Program on Speaking Skills)
- **Frog Music** (Stories to Respect the Environment)
- **Swamp and Forest Friends**
- **Bridging Cultures** (Multi-Cultural, your choice among Hispanic, African, Asian, Middle Eastern, Australian)
- **North Carolina is Delicious** (good nutrition)
- **Ancient Myths** (Egypt, Rome, Greece)

Time Travelers—One-woman shows:

- **The Whaler’s Wife:** Story of a woman who learned to think about the world in a new way. (1840s)
- **Belle Boyd’s Aunt Recollects:** Humorous show about Civil War Spies.
- **Westward Ho! Narcissa Whitman:** First white woman to travel the Oregon Trail recounts her trip
- **Molly Speaks!:** Colonial indentured servant tells about life in NC during and just after the revolutionary war.
- **WWII on the Homefront:** Radio personality from WWII gives a short interactive radio show and talks about life on the home front.

Other custom presentations of stories, one woman shows, writing or speaking skills workshops are available on request.