

# Storytelling Study Guide

## ***Stories That Shape Us: A Journey Through African & Caribbean Folklore***

**Artist:** Keshia Christie

**Program Duration:** 50 minutes + Q&A

**Grade Range:** K–8

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### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

*Stories That Shape Us* is an interactive storytelling performance rooted in African and Caribbean oral traditions. Through explanatory folktales, trickster tales, riddles, song, cultural artifacts, and audience participation, students explore how stories teach lessons, preserve history, and shape identity.

Stories may vary depending on grade level and audience needs. Core themes include:

- Responsibility and consequences
  - Fairness and equity
  - Community and cooperation
  - Wisdom and humility
  - Identity and belonging
  - The power of voice
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### **PERFORMANCE STRUCTURE**

The program follows a structured learning arc:

1. **Why Storytelling Matters** – Introduction to oral tradition and cultural memory
  2. **How & Why Folktale** – An explanatory story exploring cause, consequence, and moral lesson
  3. **Trickster Tale** – Exploring cleverness vs wisdom and social responsibility
  4. **Riddles & Proverbs** – Building critical thinking through oral play
  5. **Cultural Artifacts** – Visual connection to storytelling traditions
  6. **Folk Song & Movement** – Experiencing rhythm and memory in oral culture
  7. **Traditional Closing Story** – Reflective ending centered on wisdom
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# LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

## Oral Communication

- Demonstrate active listening.
- Participate in call-and-response.
- Retell key story elements.

## Literacy & Critical Thinking

- Identify character, conflict, and resolution.
- Analyze choices and consequences.
- Interpret theme or moral.
- Solve and create riddles.

## Cultural Understanding

- Recognize oral storytelling as a cultural tradition.
- Identify characteristics of trickster figures.
- Understand how stories preserve history and values.

## Creative Expression

- Use voice and gesture to communicate meaning.
  - Participate in traditional song and rhythm.
  - Create or adapt a short folktale.
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# BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

Discuss:

- What is a folktale?
  - Why do cultures tell stories?
  - What makes a good listener?
  - Can stories teach lessons?
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# AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

Discuss:

- What was the central lesson?
- Did the character make a wise choice?
- What were the consequences?
- How did the storytelling techniques (voice, rhythm, repetition) help you remember the story?

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# DIFFERENTIATED ADAPTATIONS

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## K–2

**Focus:** Listening, feelings, simple cause & effect

Activities:

- Draw your favourite scene and describe it.
- Freeze-frame beginning, middle, end.
- Identify how a character felt.

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## Grades 3–6

**Focus:** Structure, fairness, responsibility

Activities:

- Create a story map (character, problem, solution, lesson).
- Write or orally present a short folktale.
- Create a riddle using descriptive clues.

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## Grades 7–8

**Focus:** Archetypes, ethics, cultural preservation

Activities:

- Analyze character motivation and consequence.
- Debate: Was the character clever or wise?
- Rewrite the folktale in a modern setting.
- Deliver a short oral retelling using vocal variation.

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# CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS (Ontario)

Supports learning in:

- Language (Oral Communication, Narrative Structure)
- Social Studies (Heritage, Identity, Community)
- Drama (Expression, Character, Voice)
- Social-Emotional Learning (Empathy, Responsibility, Reflection)

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## ACCESSIBILITY & ENGAGEMENT

The performance includes:

- Clear vocal delivery
- Repetition for comprehension
- Movement-based participation
- Call-and-response
- Cultural artifacts to support visual learning

Adaptable for gymnasiums, classrooms, libraries, and virtual settings.

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## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Kesha Christie is an Afro-Caribbean storyteller and cultural educator who brings African and Caribbean oral traditions to schools and communities across Ontario. Through dynamic performance and interactive learning, she empowers students to see storytelling as a bridge between culture, confidence, and communication.