



ESL BO - Listening for Understanding – Oral Storytelling is a form of Literature Name: _____

Part One – read this non-fiction article. Underline all the new words. Look these up in a dictionary and write a list of these words on lined paper adding definitions for each word.

Indigenous people have told stories for millennia

Indigenous peoples of the Americas have some forms of writing. Here are some writing examples that are thousands of years old, and are from **Anishinabeg (Algonquin) ancestors**. These **pictographs** are images written on stone with **iron oxide** (metallic paint) to remind people of stories. The **elders** who know the stories share them still with their communities. **Oral stories** are passed down from one generation to another. We know that the oldest known **evidence** of humans living in North America is 130,000 years ago. We don't know how long **First Nations** people have shared stories but we do know that it is a long time!

Pictographs from Bon Echo in Algonquin territory:



Pictographs are images painted on rock using paint made from **bear grease** mixed with the metal iron oxide which comes from **clay**.

This is a photo of a pictograph of **Nanabozho** who is a spirit who helped Creator when the world was made.



This is a photo of another pictograph on **Mazinaw Lake**.

This is a photo of another pictograph on Mazinaw Lake. **Mazinaw** means (writing/drawing) in **Anishinabemowin**. It has some spirits such as Mishi pishu on it. **Mishi pishu** is a spirit of a Lynx

Pictographs are one type of written language

The pictographs in this **territory** are only one example of written languages from the Indigenous peoples. There are some nations that have **birch bark scrolls**. These are pieces of birch (paper) that notes were written on and sent to others. The Ojibwe and the Mi'gmaq are both nations that had widely written languages that were written on paper. Some older people remember these written languages. Also some **symbols** are built on the land. For example; big **mounds** of dirt in shapes (eg. a snake)

Stories are shared in circles.

The **storyteller** tells the story and the listeners sit in a circle, quietly and listen to what the storyteller says. No-one else speaks when a story is being shared. People who listen well, will remember the stories and pass them on to their children. This is how stories are passed down from one **generation** to another. In some nations, children are trained to be storytellers of the **ancient** stories. They are chosen at a young age and taught the stories so they will pass them on when they are adults. This is a great honour and a very important responsibility.

Part Two Answer these questions about what you can understand without reading the entire article:

1. What is the title of this article?
2. What are the three subtitles?
 - a.



b.

c.

3. What is the heading for the photos in this article?

4. What are the two photos picture of? Explain in your own words.

Part Three Vocabulary - Match the following words to the best definitions of those words:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| a. Indigenous _____ | 1 . A spirit who helped the Creator when the world was being Created |
| b. Anishinabeg _____ | 2. The “real people” who lived in this territory first before newcomers arrived |
| c. Algonquin _____ | 3. The outside layer of a tree that has white paper like covering on it. |
| d. ancestors _____ | 4. Dug up from earth and can be made into mugs, plates, bowls, etc. |
| e. pictographs _____ | 5. Piles of earth made into shapes |
| f. elders _____ | 6. The Algonquin word for writing and drawing |
| g. oral stories _____ | 7. Images painted or drawn on stone |
| h. evidence _____ | 8. A person who is good at telling stories |
| i. First Nations _____ | 9. The fat from the inside of the skin of a bear. It is collected and boiled. |
| j. bear grease _____ | 10. The language of the Anishinabeg (Algonquin people’s language) |
| k. clay _____ | 11. Rolled up paper with notes or paintings on them. |
| l. Nanabozho _____ | 12. Images that people know have a meaning for something specific |
| m. Mazinaw _____ | 13. Each of these is one level of a family children, parents, grandparents etc. |
| n. Anishinabemowin _____ | 14. The original nations of this land we live on in North America |
| o. Mishi Pishu _____ | 15. All the original people of a continent which may include many tribes from that land |
| p. territory _____ | 16. Ottawa is on the territory of these people |
| q. birch bark _____ | 17. Older people who have wisdom that the community sees are good advisors |
| r. scrolls _____ | 18. A spirit that comes in the form of a lynx (a big furry wild cat) |
| s. symbols _____ | 19. The land base of a specific nation of people |
| t. mounds _____ | 20. Something very old – thousands of years old |
| u. storyteller _____ | 21. The people in our own family who came before us eg. parents, grandparents, etc. |
| v. generations _____ | 22. Stories that are told verbally, not in writing |
| w. ancient _____ | 23. Facts or things that can be used to support an idea or conclusion about something |



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Part Four Questions: Answer these questions after reading the article again:

5. How old are some writings of the Anishinabeg?
6. What did the ancestors write or paint pictographs on?
7. Why did the ancestors create pictographs and other forms of ancient writing? Explain your answer in your own words!
8. What is the oldest evidence of people living in North America?
9. What are two other forms of writing by Indigenous peoples of North America?
 - a. b_____ b_____ sc_____
 - b. m _____
10. What is a storytelling circle and how is it organized?
11. Traditionally when were people chosen to be trained as storytellers?

Part Five The story you heard in our circle

Yesterday we had a storytelling circle in class. You listened to the teacher tell a story. After the story the teacher had you draw a drawing of it. Answer these questions to help you remember the story. Also look at the picture you drew and ask others about their picture and what they remember.

12. Who was the main character of the story? Describe her:
13. What did this girl want to do?
14. Who helped her get where she wanted to go?
15. After she got where she wanted to go, she asked one of her friends to go to her mother, who was in the kitchen. What did she want her mom to provide?
16. What did her mom do?
17. Most oral stories have lessons they teach us. What lesson do you think this little story teaches us about how to live life?



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18. A plot in a story has three parts: Beginning (tells us where and who is involved), Middle (actions take place), and an Ending (tells us how the story finished). In one or two sentences for each section write what happened in the story you listened to. Remember we are using COMPOUND SENTENCES and trying to include: adjectives, adverbs, compound words, pronouns and transition words such as conjunctions. Make sure you write in an advanced way using these types of sentences and words. These parts of the story are called the PLOT – meaning what happened in a story.

A. Beginning of the Story -

B. Middle of the Story -

C. Ending of the Story -

19. Now that you have done the outline of the three parts of the story, you are going to write a rough draft of the story to go with your drawing. On a lined piece of paper, write the story you heard yesterday. Write an introductory sentence at the start and a concluding sentence about what you think the overall message there was in this story. Oral stories share lessons so don't forget to put that in your conclusion.

Introductory Sentence:

eg. There was a young girl who lived in the countryside and she hoped to meet a special goal of hers.

Concluding Sentence:

eg. So as you can see this little girl not only learned to climb a tree but she learned to get help to achieve her goals.