



**23 November 2006, Thursday**

(for all teachers & NE coordinators, reaching out to secondary, junior colleges and tertiary school students; as well as for all NE practitioners, SAF commanders & NE lecturers, reaching out to adults)

**24 November 2006, Friday**

(for all teachers & NE coordinators, reaching out to preschool & primary school students)

**Time:**

8.00am - 5.00pm

**Venue:**

The Legends, Fort Canning Park  
11 Canning Walk

workshops	trainers	programme	registration	enquiries
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## Introduction

NATIONAL EDUCATION is about building the fabric of a nation. It seeks to build a common ground for Singaporeans from all walks of life, getting us to identify with

**Singapore as our home, a place to live in, to love and to cherish.**

NATIONAL EDUCATION messages can be communicated in many ways; this one-day seminar showcases Storytelling as an effective way of getting National Education messages straight to the hearts and minds of people. The messages are no doubt serious, but the delivery has to be engaging and inspiring. Storytelling does exactly this and in the process, the messages stay embedded for life.

*"There have been great societies that did not use the wheel, but there have been no societies that did not tell stories." Ursula K. LeGuin*

## Objective

**This seminar will bring participants through a complete process of**

- > discovering storytelling as a most natural but powerful National Education tool
- > learning how to select stories to carry different National Education messages for different audiences
  - > learning how to craft and tell stories
  - > learning storytelling techniques and tips

Since September 2004, the National Book Development Council of Singapore has been organising the Engaging Hearts & Minds seminar for teachers, National Education (NE) coordinators, SAF Commanders, and in fact anyone who wishes to use stories to communicate ideas. These seminars were a huge success. Participants learned how powerful storytelling could be in communicating messages to their audiences.

Here's what they said:

*"An EXCELLENT workshop! Though I was a little shy in the beginning, the step-by-step guidance really helped to allay my concerns about storytelling."*

*"I used to have a fear of telling stories to my students. I was afraid about boring them. Within one day I've seen GREAT IMPROVEMENT in my storytelling skills and have become more confident. I think my students will be glad I went to this workshop."*

*"The trainers were ENGAGING and EFFECTIVE in conveying the content. An EXCELLENT programme which I'd definitely recommend to my colleagues."*

*"An ENJOYABLE course with USEFUL learning tips and ideas; there is depth, interaction and varied activities."*

*"As an English language teacher, I have truly BENEFITED from this session, even though I may not use it to disseminate only NE messages."*

## **Workshops**

### **Session 1: *Why Storytelling?* An Introduction to Storytelling for Communication and National Education**

*“Thou shalt not’ is soon forgotten, but ‘Once upon a time’ lasts forever.” Philip Pullman*

Stories can carry powerful messages in a form more acceptable than direct preaching or moralising. It is the perfect way to transmit values, knowledge and information. This workshop introduces storytelling as a National Education tool. It covers the benefits of storytelling to a child’s development with special emphasis on social cultural aspects.

### **Session 2: *Playing with Stories!* Unleash Your Creativity Here**

*“Of course it is true, but it may not have happened.” Patricia Polacco’s grandmother*

Relax now and have fun in this workshop, expect fun games and activities that will ignite creative thinking for the rest of the day.

### **Session 3: *Getting Personal!* Crafting Personal Stories to Engage Your Audience**

*“A good story comes from the heart, not the head.” Ken Farmer*

Personal stories help us to identify ourselves and to connect past to present and future. The sharing of personal stories also allows for mutual understanding to take place. This workshop shares with participants the relevance of personal stories and techniques for crafting and learning them.

### **Session 4: *Folktales for the Modern World* Using Folktales to Carry National Education and Other Messages**

*“Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten.” G. K. Chesterton*

Yes, folktales are relevant in the modern world. This workshop studies the messages and values embedded in them and how they can be used for National Education purposes. There will also be a special look at fables, tales of justice and wisdom, legends of Singapore and how they can be used to nurture values and attitudes.

### **Session 5: *So What Story Should I Tell?* Choosing the Right Story**

*“Words should be weighed, not counted.” Jewish folk saying*

Telling the right story is almost as important as storytelling itself. This workshop shares guidelines on choosing stories that will enable the telling to be effective and so carry the desired National Education messages successfully to your audience.

### **Session 6: *Making Stories Come Alive!* Storytelling Techniques You Need**

*“A storyteller draws from the past, to shape the present and to dare the future.” Cassandra Wye*

Anyone can tell a story, but not everyone can storytell to engage the intellect and emotions of the audience. To do so, one needs techniques and practice. This workshop shares tips and techniques on effective storytelling, storytelling that will send National Education messages straight to the hearts of the audience.

## About the Trainers

### Asian Storytelling Network (ASN)

ASN is a professional storytelling company that is at the forefront of the storytelling revival in Singapore. Through their involvement in the development of the annual Asian Congress of Storytellers, in addition to raising awareness of storytelling and its benefits within Singapore, they have also raised Singapore's profile in the international storytelling community. They also founded what is now the Society for Reading and Literacy's Storytellers Circle. This is a dynamic and ever growing group of storytelling enthusiasts who come together to share resources and hone their storytelling skills.

**KIRAN SHAH** is a storyteller and a trainer of early childhood teachers. She has a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education. Kiran also sells quality children's books through Good Books.

**SHEILA WEE** is a storyteller and a speech and drama specialist who holds a teaching Diploma from Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

## Programme

8 am	– 8.30 am	Registration
8.30 am	– 8.45 am	Welcome Address
8.45 am	– 12.30 pm	Session 1: Why Storytelling? An Introduction to Storytelling for Communication and National Education  Session 2: Playing with Stories! Unleash Your Creativity Here  Tea Break  Session 3: Getting Personal! Crafting Personal Stories to Engage Your Audience
12.30 pm	– 1.30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm	– 5 pm	Session 4: Folktales for the Modern World Using Folktales to Carry National Education and other Messages  Session 5: So What Story Should I Tell? Choosing the Right Story  Tea Break  Session 6: Making Stories Come Alive! Storytelling Techniques You Need  Conclusion Sit Back and Reflect... What Next?

## **Registration**

### **Easy Ways to Register**

Mail National Book Development Council of Singapore  
50 Geylang East Avenue 1, Singapore 389777  
Fax (65) 6742 9466  
Email [ne@bookcouncil.sg](mailto:ne@bookcouncil.sg)

### **Payment and Important Notes**

1. Payment to be made in Singapore Dollars, by cash, cheque or bank draft, payable to “**NBDCS**” and mail the payment together with your form to us. Alternatively you may deliver your payment, with your name and contact details attached, immediately after you have faxed/emailed/submitted your online registration.

**Participation is confirmed only upon receipt of registration form and payment.**

#### ***Mailing Address***

*National Book Development Council of Singapore  
Geylang East Community Library  
50 Geylang East Avenue 1  
Singapore 389777*

2. In the event that we do not have enough participants signed up for the 23 November 06 Seminar, the organiser may cancel it and request that participants attend the 24 November 06 Seminar instead. However, please be assured that there will be no compromise in the programme or its relevance to your area of work.

4. The Seminar programme is correct at the time of printing. The organiser reserves the right to amend the programme

#### **Cancellation and Substitution**

Fees paid are non-refundable but transferable. Requests for substitution must be made before 16 November 2006. Regrettably, no refund can be made for “no show” participants.

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