



2003

Storyville

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Lorraine Thompson. *Storyville*. I.E. Clark Publications, 2002. ISBN 0886804949. Contact publisher regarding price. 19 pp.

Reviewer: Mindy Nelsen

Reading Level: Preschool; Primary;

Rating: Dependable;

Genre: Folklore; Plays; Humorous Plays;

Subject: Drama--Reviews; Bedtime stories--Juvenile drama; Fables--Juvenile drama; Animals--Juvenile drama;

Theme: Everyone has a great story to tell.

Production Requirements: Few properties, simplistic set.

Acts: 1

Run Time: 20 min

Characters: 7-45

Cast: Very flexible, only 3 characters must be female and 1 must be male.

Time Period: Past and present.

Narrated by the Wise Woman, *Storyville* is about a group of people who have a tale to tell. Each player gets their turn to tell a story, some of which are intermingled and others which involve audience participation. Once their story has been told, the player can become a character in another player's tale. All of the players end in full circle, coming back together as they began and telling us that all lived happily ever after.

The production requirements are minimal with common or simple props and a nearly bare stage. The cast is extremely flexible and can be used as a large group event or to showcase a few actors who will play multiple roles. The audience participation is minimal, but fun and the participation comes at appropriate times. The dialogue is quickly paced and moves the play along well. The drawback to this production is a lack of plot. Each story has a moral, but each one is presented and glossed over so quickly that the audience may soon forget its purpose. It could be used as a fun classroom production, but discussion time should be used afterward to reflect on the morals and lesson presented in the stories.