ACTIVITY SUMMARY:
Experience the art of oral storytelling. Plan and prepare an oral storytelling session with the children.

METHOD:
1. Choose a story to orally retell. Prior to retelling the story select some props that will aid you in the retelling.
2. Commit to memory the key repetitive phrases that may arise in the story. Emphasise these in your retelling by encouraging the children to say them along with you.
3. Give the children time in groups to explore different stories from the collections. Invite them to select a story that they wish to retell. Encourage them to note the key moments in the story and highlight key phrases that they will emphasise in their retelling. Drawing a visual story map will assist children with this.
4. Invite them to collect or make props to assist them with their retelling.
5. Give them time to rehearse and organise how they will retell their story.
6. Have a dedicated rotating oral storytelling slot across the week to allow each group to perform their story to the rest of the class.

INGREDIENTS:
A selection of small animals, people and items to represent classic characters and elements of well-known tales.
Magnetic tape, laminate pouches and photocopies of key characters from a selection of traditional tales. Use these to make sets of puppets for your stories.
A variety of clothing and everyday objects to use as prompts to create stories. E.g. a range of hats, a tie, scarf, wallet, set of keys.
A storytelling throne, cloak or dedicated area.

TIME:
An afternoon to prepare and rehearse and a short slot of time for each group to perform their retelling.

EYFS / NATIONAL CURRICULUM 2014:
• Develop pleasure in reading, motivation to read, vocabulary and understanding by becoming very familiar with key stories, fairy stories and traditional tales, retelling them and considering their particular characteristics.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:
EYFS:
• The Tiger Skin Rug by Gerald Rose (Bloomsbury)
• What the Ladybird Heard by Julia Donaldson (Macmillan)
YEAR 1/2:
• Little Old Mrs Pepperrpot and Other Stories by Alf Prøysen (Random House)
• The Selfish Giant by Oscar Wilde (Hutchinson)
YEAR 3/4:
• Fairy Tales by Terry Jones (Puffin)
• Into the Forest by Anthony Browne (Walker)
YEAR 5/6:
• Seasons of Splendour by Madhur Jeffrey (Puffin)
• Way Home by Libby Hathorn (Andersen)

CASE STUDY:
Children in this Year 1 class at Castlecombe Primary made visual storymaps to help retell the story of Traction Man.
1. Year 3 children created their own storymaps to retell the story of Anthony Browne’s Into the Forest. They performed their stories orally to the rest of the class.