

## *Diane Edgecomb ~ Entertaining Performances that Enhance Elementary School Curriculum*



### **Diane Edgecomb**

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For over twenty years, Diane's top quality storytelling performances and workshops have been featured at schools, colleges, museums, libraries and theaters throughout the US. Her gifts as storyteller, educator and entertainer make her as appreciated by teachers as she is by students. Celebrate a unit of study with curriculum friendly programs such as Digging Dinosaurs, Insect Comedy, Night Lights (star myths), Rainforest Legends, Native American Nature Tales or Tales for the Earth. Cultural heritage programs range from Irish Fairytales to the Kurds of the Middle East (author presentation). The effortless way Diane's programs bring educational information into an entertaining format inspires even the most reluctant learners to open up their imaginations.

### **Seasonal Programs:**

**Tall Fall Tales** - brings alive the autumn world of nature with original stories and songs sure to delight both young and old. In the hilarious tale Plenty of Nuts, young Beatrice just cannot sit still in class. In the end, a lesson from a neighborhood squirrel helps her learn how to concentrate. Fall Fire, based on a Native American myth, tells how a friendly beaver painted the trees with autumn's fiery colors. Celebrate fall with this enchanting seasonal performance. Grade Levels: K-2

**Once Upon A Wintertime** - Warm your hearts and your imaginations with tales from long ago. These stories of wintertime magic and fun are drawn from many cultures ranging from the lyrical Grimm's tale of Snow White and Rose Red to tales of folksy New England escapades. Transform a winter's day or evening into a time of delight. Choose "Once Upon A Wintertime" as a non-denominational way to celebrate the December holiday season. Grade Levels: K-2

**Welcome in the Spring!** - with the very best of spring folklore, nature tales and contemporary stories. We'll meet Kate in Kate's Acorn, who gets a special surprise when she helps to save the earthworms - in the end her first acorn grows into an oak! In Kite's Tale, two best friends create an unusual kite that wings us across the sky in a hilarious fantasy of kite strings, bird's nests and song. Welcome in the Spring! is the perfect accompaniment to this joyful season. Grade Levels: K-2

**Once Upon A Halloween** - What would Halloween be without some chillin' tales for the spookiest time of the year? This fun-filled program contains some old chestnuts as well as great new Halloween stories full of surprises and complete with a huge cauldron bubbling over with fog for the last dramatic story! All tales are appropriate for family audiences and contain a well-rounded blend of suspense and humor. Grade Levels: K-4

### **Nature Stories:**

**Digging Dinosaurs** - These popular dinosaur adventures complement their scientific facts with a happy dose of humor. Dinosaur lovers of all ages will enjoy the colorful posters, Dinosaur Sign-Language and participation that keep audiences engaged and asking for MOOOORE! Two original stories are included. Pattysaurus in which selfish Patty becomes so obsessed with her dinosaur collection that she turns into a gigantic sauropod herself and Egg Mountain in which the audience helps out on this surprise filled journey that leads to the discovery of Egg Mountain and Maisaura, the first dinosaur known to care for its young. Based on current scientific discoveries, this piece educates as it entertains. Grade Levels: K-2

**Rainforest Legends** - From the banks of the Amazon River to the heart of the West African jungle, Rainforest Legends brings to life favorite folktales and songs about the animals and plants of these lands. Legends tell how the Amazon Birds grew feathers as brilliant as the colors of the rainbow, why three Invisible Hunters came to haunt the Nicaraguan rainforest, and how Jabuti the tortoise tricked the Amazon monster Kibungo into sparing the lives of three-toed frog, jaguar and monkey. Different Rainforest Legends performances are available for K-2 and 3-6th grade. Each performance comes with an extensive curriculum package, which includes both science-based and language-based activities. Grade Levels: K-6

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**Tales for the Earth** - A Celebration of Nature and all the simple things we can do to help. Tales for the Earth is a beloved performance that is both educational and entertaining. It explores topics such as Water Conservation, Recycling and Wildlife Protection. The performance is tailored to suit each specific audience. Depending on the age range stories may include: "What Now, Cloacina?" Diane's hilarious water conservation story about a water sprite who travels through the sewage system in search of her pond or "The Boy Who Loved the Swamp," based on the true story of a 5th grade student who saves his favorite nature spot from development. In addition, contemporary tales explore ways to foster a whole Earth ethic. What shines through the entire presentation is a love and respect for our place in nature; with many ideas communicated about how we can create a difference. Grade Levels: K-6

**Insect Comedy** - takes a delightful look at our six-legged friends. In Princess Firefly entertaining facts are served up along with plenty of silliness as the Princess ponders, "Who will be the bug I will love?" Kate's Acorn, one of Diane's original stories, teaches about the importance of soil creatures in the life cycle of plants. And in another backyard tale we learn about when to keep or let insects go. Diane's hilarious interpretations of Mr. Mosquito, Mr. Gnat, and Old King Lampyradie Beetle keep us laughing as we take a closer look at the world of insects. Grade Levels: K-6

**Night Lights** - Unusual star myths take us on a multi-cultural voyage across the heavens. The collection of tales teaches about easily observed celestial phenomena like the origin of prominent constellations, and significant 'night lights' like Morning Star and North Star. Complemented by a humorous legend of the origin of fireflies, this program is well-rounded entertainment. Enjoy it in any indoors venue or bring it to an outdoor or nighttime setting as a special treat. Listen in wonder as tales from Greece, Estonia, Native America, Kurdistan and Korea celebrate the magic of the night sky. Grade Levels: K-6

### **Cultural Tales:**

**Native American Nature Tales** - explores tribal myths and legends of the animals and birds of North America. Ranging from the humorous to the heart-felt, these stories celebrate native culture and its strong links to the natural world. We learn an Abenaki canoeing song, explore over seven different animals in the Northwest legend of Loon's Song and discover why America is called Turtle Island. For older audiences the performance features beautiful legends of the spirit like Jumping Mouse. Join one of New England's favorite tellers as these rich stories create a colorful weave of the landscape. Through these how and why legends, students begin to understand how Native American culture clothed their world in story and how this enlivened both imagination and world. Grade Levels: K-6

**Tales of Enchantment** - Enter the world of fairy tales where magic is only a moment away, and lessons about how to live are expressed through vivid symbols. For younger children, Diane brings to life classic fairy tales like Snow White and Rose Red and Bee, Mouse, Harp and Bum-dock, an unusual 'Jack' tale. When Jack returns home with dancing bugs instead of beans, the fun and magic really begin! For older students ask for the performance Storytelling of Ireland and Britain which explores the oral tradition through Arthurian legends and ancient Irish tales. Grade Levels: K-6

**A Fire in My Heart: Kurdish Folktales** - Kurdish Folktales: Based around Diane's new book of Kurdish folktales, this program introduces students and families to this pivotal Middle Eastern culture. Diane presents Kurdish stories she collected firsthand including, The Lie, a humorous story about a tall tale contest between an Uncle and his nephew, Fatima, the Kurdish Cinderella story and tales of how the moon and the Milky Way came to be. A map, anecdotes of her collecting experience and traditional dress and dance round out our exploration of this little known culture. Grade Levels: 3-6

**Shenanigans** - There is plenty of laughter and delight in this animated retelling of Ireland's best-loved gems. The storytelling includes Irish favorites like Gilly Blackfoot where a young lad's aversion to washing his feet causes him to fall in with a fairy band. Cloaks of Invisibility and magic spells abound as hapless Gilly sets out to help free the Princess of France. With her vivid comedic style, Diane Edgecomb brings delight to her interpretations of these classic Irish favorites. This performance is also available with Diane's longtime collaborator Margot Chamberlain accompanying the program on Celtic harp. Grade: K-6

**Around the World Folktales** - Join In and travel around the world with these captivating multi-cultural legends. Each tale offers a participatory look at our common love of story. Celebrate engaging narratives, animal characters, songs in different languages and home-spun wisdom as one of New England's favorite storytellers takes us from the heart of the Amazon rainforest to the forests of the Czech Republic to the villages of Africa. Celebrate the diversity of people all over the world using the common elements of story, rhythm and song. Grade Levels: K-2

### **Booking Information:**

Storytelling performances are 45 minutes – one hour. Maximum Group Size 225, unless other arrangements are made. Single Pres: \$ 525, Two Pres/Half Day: \$ 825, Three Pres: \$1,125 (3 show max); Series: negotiable, Follow-up classroom workshops: \$75 per session.

Basic Requirements: School provides microphone (Diane brings her own equipment to augment), someone to set up and break down the performance space, someone to introduce the program; For travel distances further than 2 hours from the Boston area, please contact us to discuss travel fees, any lodging needs, etc.

Diane's performances are available year-round.