

Learning through Illustrative Story-Telling

Bindulika Sharma

Associate Professor (Applied Art), Department of Art Education, Faculty of Fine Arts,
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi- 110025

Area of the Study -

Children (Age group): 3 to 8 years

Period: Modern Times

Experimental Area: Zonal division (Urban and Rural)

“Storytelling is the most powerful way to put ideas into world”

- Prof Robert McKee

INTRODUCTION

A dot speaks, a line speaks, a circle hold us together, a triangle opts for action while a square or rectangle frame our identity. To begin with let's View the familiar, traffic symbols displayed over the roadside, they transit functional symbols, meant for certain visual appeal, they are created not accidentally, but strongly cultivated with full realization, so that their silence may speak their objectives.

The storytelling through illustration is the earliest mode of entertainment and the oldest means of passing down the values, ideas and history. Here, illustration as a means of storytelling not just adds ornamentation to a story but it also lend to define the words in action. Hence we may say, Storytelling with the reference, to one or series of illustrations depends on the method and involvement of narration than just the choice of the stories. Or we May say, illustration pursues to evoke reaction from the listener, to create an illusionary suspense to make the child eagerly wait for the next moment or happening to occur.

There are many kinds of children's illustrated books flourished with simple stories for tiny tots, to complicated tales that desires to engage eleven years old. Some have moral dilemmas, while others are provided as, 'read a-loud' books targeting their little audience. Each artist working for children book illustrations faces many challenges, when tackling any new project. As stated by Caldecott Medal winner **Emily Arnold Mc Cully**, *“The pictures are the gateway to the story.”* Similarly, **Jerry Pinkney**, the Hans Christian Andersen Awarded nominee, agrees saying “I am a visual storyteller. I want readers to turn the pages, not to linger too long; as they can come back and look more closely at the art later”. And more, **Charles Santore**, one of the most eminent American illustrators of magazine, advertising and books, points out, “The force and flow of the story ride on the pictures, exploring various techniques form water color to collage to digital imaging”.





Illustration by Bindulika Sharma, "Lal Topi", Author- ManoramaJafa , "Khaaskitab" India

It would be more or less correct; to say that average children up to five years are thrilled to listen to stories with animals and birds as the main character. While, children aged six and seven might enjoy stories relating to nature- the sun, the stars, the wind the rain in the mountains, the rivers and the seas. Whereas, most of Children aged six to nine, would be easily carried away by stories from the epics, which depicts everything from real life to fantasy, adventure to treachery, bravery to deceit, in short every facet of human emotions as well as the divinity of the character. Abounding in action, these stories from mythology, folktale, and legends are capable of keeping the listeners spellbound. The myths are about the Gods, origin of the universe, of man's struggle against strange elements and his own nature. Illustrative description helps to let these subject breath and the narratives, further engage our imaginations to entertain their listeners.

The aim of illustrative story telling is to make learning enjoyable and to represent the basic values of beauty, humanity, responsibility and rituals in fun manner. Illustration makes reading and narration much more fascinating. And when we understand, fantasy is the integral part of the thought process. A child opts to fantasize these stories and concepts, in their own real lives or in the lives of someone they are known to. It is an effort of captivating illustration that helps in retaining the interest of the reader from one word to another and sustains the tempo all the way through the story.



Illustration by Bindulika Sharma, "Lal Topi", Author- ManoramaJafa , "Khaaskitab" India



CATEGORIZING THE AIM OF ILLUSTRATIVE STORY TELLING

- Develops background knowledge about a variety of topics
- Builds vocabulary
- Becomes familiar with rich language patterns
- Develops familiarity with story structure
- Acquires familiarity with the reading process
- Identifies reading as a pleasurable activity

Effectively, illustration must support the world of story to emerge real, and then extends into the real world. As, children develop a great sense of innovation, relation, concentration and communication through these work of Art. The key feature of illustration job stands with the worth, that they attract and involve, the child reading the text, and on the same page going through the scene as the pictures. And hence we may say, Illustration enhances curiosity to predict what could happen the next. Visuals could be created to help the child readers, to go into a book and experience its world on their own. Research has proven this thereby develops literacy skills increases attention span and balances the curiosity levels.

It reinforces children's confidence which is important for their all-round development, especially, in learning how to read — which the biggest challenge is.

As we understand, the three important milestones in the development of mankind had been marked as speaking, drawing and printing. ***Research studies show that human beings retain 10% of what they read, 20% of what they hear, 30% of what they see and 50% of what they see and hear, and 70% of what they discuss or communicate or teach.*** Reading children picture stories, at home, can support, enhance, and offer, a qualitative way for us, as a concerned adult, to spend time, with our little learners. ***As these stories, interestingly opens, window of opportunities, for inter-active discussions, while reading, enjoying and sharing together, with parents, grandparents and friends.*** The quality, or the strength, of the story- book, is derived, from the, unique blend of, creative narration, and visual interpretation, of different possibilities, with different, captivating, styles and techniques, of the Art-work.

Illustration acts as the link between a Childs imagination and surroundings, also through illustration, they are exposed to a universal appeal as it evokes curiosity among children as they listen with their whole being and explore deeper into its nature reaching child's inner world. There are many unsaid feelings, which form deep down in the he illustrations of the listener and the teller that blossom into a shared moment of togetherness through illustration. Storytelling through illustration is not only an art but a craft too as it just not recreates the literature or history by giving it illusionary life, but rather, it is a means using different crafty techniques to create an unforgettable impression on the listener, creating dramatization.



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Moreover as we say *“A thing of beauty is joy forever”, capturing beauty on paper in the form of illustration, photograph or written words does immortalize the joy forever.* Hence, prime modules and ideal associates with storytelling through illustration, an impressive pictorial reading substitute can hold a child’s attention and teach him to concentrate, while coordinating with flipping the pages from right to left continuously, till the book reaches its climax. We can help our little learners through becoming their role model and best motivator. Thus, providing with relevant reading and interesting material may enable our little ones to discover what reading can offer them. We must remember, the habits and attitudes toward learning that are formed in these early years set the mood for all future learning. Exposures to the world of colourfully captivating imageries may act as one of education’s richest resources to inspire children, promoting and evoking interest in a certain reading material at a very young age.

As we understand, *reading can elevate and activate our life with information, interests, values, beliefs, and aspirations.* A pleasing picture book or cleverly illustrated educational games can install the sense of belonging and participation. Tempting image texts or illustrations, supports to manifest a child’s preoccupied desire to enjoy reading for themselves, at their own pace and in their own way. Encouraging this habit may develop children’s motivation valuing the *‘free will’* to choose reading for pleasure and leisure with a larger range of texts. Here, our motivation plays a vital role as we support, involve, and engage, happiness interpreting the narrative images, while reading the text. Henceforth, the salient little learner with curiosity, pleasure, and satisfaction choose the desire to read and relate about the possible meanings in its physical and social environment. Their motivation to read themselves could undoubtedly be fuelled by their previous experiences of delight and a deep sense of emotional satisfaction.

A written book with substantial images plays a vital role not only to enlighten the basic knowledge, but also stands for a view point, characterization, information, science and discoveries with their appropriate interpretation. Effectively, illustration supports the world of story to emerge real, and then extends into the real world. *Children develop a great sense of innovation, relation, concentration and communication. Storytelling is the strategy to help obtain oral language proficiency.* Storytelling gives the students the daily practice they need in order to advance their language skills. Through storytelling that their ability to listen to others will increase, expanding their vocabulary, knowledge base and sentence structure. It is through listening to other people that they gain much of their vocabulary and sentence structure. By listening to other people they also learn the context in which words are used. Children must learn to speak and carry on conversations before they can become active readers.

Storytelling—helps improve children’s attitude, interest, and motivation toward language learning. As young children take turns communicating with each other, as soon they begin to appreciate different practice of combining reason and imagination. Oral storytelling naturally lends itself to dramatic presentations. As children bring alive a story by using movements and sounds, and make meaning by performing and building on what they could imagine. In the continuation with this write up, further in my other articles I would tend to put forward my observation on; ‘how illustration promote logical thinking’ and ‘How illustration promote cultural integration’ and ‘How illustration promotes perception of ‘peace’ and ‘patience’.

Hence, to conclude this introductory article, I would like to say that among the various mode of communication - that is through speech, gestures and electronic media, the visual aids also stands as one of the most powerful, popular and effective way to transfer knowledge and a prescribed story, as it is most easily understood. According to ‘SUKRA AITI SAAR’, kala or Art serves a more complete discipline to develop a person’s mind, then the Vidyāor learning through reading or writing. Hence, I again take the privilege to repeat, a visual image including photographs has power to enhance immediate attraction. And they interestingly hold one’s attention to the extreme of communicating the desired concept or the story, to register in our mind, forever.



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