



Characteristics of a Story¹

- ✓ Stories provoke curiosity and compel repetition.
- ✓ Stories unite us in a holistic way to nature, our common “stuff” of existence.
- ✓ Stories are a bridge to one’s culture, one’s roots.
- ✓ Stories bind us to all human kind, to the universal human family.
- ✓ Stories help us to remember.
- ✓ Stories use a special language.
- ✓ Stories restore the original power of the (spoken) word.
- ✓ Stories provide escape.
- ✓ Stories evoke in us right-brain imagination, tenderness, and therefore, wholeness.
- ✓ Stories promote healing.
- ✓ Every story is our story.
- ✓ Stories provide a basis for hope, (values), and morality.
- ✓ Stories are the basis for (our life’s work).

“When a community loses its memory, its members no longer know one another. How can they know one another if they have forgotten or have never learned one another’s stories? If they do not know one another’s stories, how can they know whether or not to trust one another? People who do not trust one another do not help one another, and, moreover, they fear one another.”

From *What are People For*, by Wendell Berry

¹ From *Storytelling: Imagination and Faith*, by William J. Bausch, and adapted from the Greenleaf Center for Servant-Leadership.

