

# Guidelines for Storytellers



Thank you so much for your interest in participating in our home languages storytelling initiative!

Here are some guidelines for storytellers:

- You can either bring in a story to read in your home language, or, if available, you can borrow a story from the FIS to read.
- If bringing in your own story, make sure it is suitable for Elementary School children and please provide an age range (for example Grades 1 to 2).
- The story should take no longer than 10 to 15 minutes to read aloud.
- If you would like to borrow a story from the FIS, please contact [Melinda Piehler](#), Elementary School Librarian for guidance on which stories are available in your home language.
- You will read the story in your home language, but not all students will know that language, so here are some tips to make sure all students can access the story:
  - Before reading the story, discuss the title with the students and ask them to predict what they think the story will be about.
  - Use visuals - show the pictures from the book, and/or additional visuals such as real objects, photos, movement, gestures or demonstrations.
  - Make emotions in the story clear through your voice.
  - Summarize the story in English (at points throughout the story and at the end).
  - Ask students who do speak the language to summarize the story in English (if they can).
- After reading the story, encourage children to ask questions about and comment on the story.
- We are happy to answer questions and provide additional support to storytellers! Please contact Melinda Piehler and [Jessica Davey](#).