

You too can tell a tale, spin a yarn, & fabricate the most fabulous fiction!



Play "Story Starters" a public speaking game to help develop great impromptu speaking skills.

This is an invitation to suspend truth, embellish reality and immerse yourself, your friends and family, in storytelling and fun.

Game overview

“Story Starters” is an impromptu speaking game played with a group of three or more people. The “Story Starters” are printed on slips of paper which are put into a container face down. Each member of the group takes a turn to take a starter. What is written on the slip of paper they select becomes the beginning of the story they tell.

For example:

Blue eyed people are not to be trusted. That's what my grandmother told me years ago. It was late on a hot summer afternoon when I took my boyfriend to visit her. On opening the door to her room a fug made up of equal parts of perfume (loud and floral), moth balls and food rushed out to meet us. Karl immediately pulled back covering his mouth leaving me standing in the doorway by myself. That was problem number one. I had told her he was coming and she was looking forward to meeting him. I knew she wanted to quiz him. Was he good enough for me? Who were his people? Where had he gone to school and what were his politics?

Problem number two was I hadn't really prepared Karl for Grandmama. Sure I'd told him about the questionnaire, about how much I loved her, about how important I was to her, but not everything. Not the fug. And definitely not about her prejudice.

(To be continued ...)

The game ends when each person has had a turn telling a story.

Who can play?

You need a minimum of 2 people, however groups of three to eight make it more interesting. I've used "Story Starters" with adults as well as groups of adults and children. It's been fun every time – one those games that people ask for again, and again.

What skills will this game help develop?

- impromptu speaking - the ability to think, then speak fluently, with ease
- an awareness of the elements of entertaining storytelling – structure, appeal, characterisation, varied vocabulary ...
- imaginative, creative thinking
- all the aspects of vocal variety – pace, pause, pitch, volume, fluency
- use of body language
- confidence
- trust in oneself – that you can think, and that you can answer appropriately and well
- audience awareness – the ability to gauge when to change direction if the audience is not responding well, and when to finish the story.

How to play

1. Print off the number of story starters needed – one per person in the group. (If you decide you want to do several rounds print two per

- person.) Place them face down in a container.
2. Decide who is going first. That person selects a starter from the container and tells a story of 2 – 3 minutes long that begins with the starter.
 3. The next person to select a starter and tell a story is chosen by the person who has just finished their story.

Rules

There are very few!

1. Once a starter has been used put it aside to ensure it doesn't get picked again.
2. A starter can not be exchanged. Players must use what was selected.
3. Agree to keep the stories to around 2 – 3 minutes long to keep the game moving along.
4. The audience, (namely the people who are listening and watching while waiting for their turn), must be positive and supportive.

Have fun making up stories.

Happy holidays,

Susan

PS. There are many more games similar to this on my site. Here's a link that will give you access to them all: [public speaking games and activities](http://www.write-out-loud.com/public-speaking-games-and-activities).



80 Story Starters ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

It was a dark and stormy night ...

I wish people would not say ...

Yesterday I saw a herd of cows.

My favorite activity is bird watching.

The wisest saying I ever heard was ...

In 20 years time I will be ...

It made me yell ...

All I want for Christmas is ...

Something is terribly wrong ...

The little voice inside my head ...

This is the secret I've never shared before.

I never knew what happened ...



80 Story Starters ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Sometimes I just want to ...

You know it's Summer when ...

**Happy birthday to you, happy birthday
to you ...**

The story made me want to ...

I heard the best news this morning ...

The sound of people laughing ...

The car tires screamed ...

It was so hot the chocolate melted ...

My sense of fashion is influenced by ...

The smell of bread baking is ...

I am shut in the smallest ...

Hunger growled loudly in my stomach.



80 Story Starters ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I want to be a star ...

Historically people in my family have always ...

Jokes are no laughing matter.

He was the most inspiring man.

Around her head was a halo of laughter.

His smile sickened me.

I knew the moment I saw him.

Blue eyed people are not to be trusted.

The juggler threw five balls into the air.

It was dragon's breath that morning.

The sounds of the waves on the beach grew louder.

How dare you!



80 Story Starters ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I don't care what you say.

The hat made her look ridiculous.

He walked slowly, dragging one foot after the other.

Last Tuesday, or was it Wednesday ...

We called her Raggedy-Ann and she was ...

The sound echoed through the still night.

Sometimes, if you listen closely, you can hear the sound of ...

I am not a thief.

You've got to be kidding me!

Love is the most uncomfortable feeling.

You'll know you're rich when ...

All women love men who ...



80 Story Starters ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

He walked backwards staring at the ground.

Just like balloons, over inflated dreams burst.

All that was left was his footprints in the sand.

She sidled around and squinted up at him.

Have money, will buy.

Old age is an illusion. I refuse to make it reality.

As long as you are here beside me ...

Coming towards me was the biggest, meanest ...

I am going to hire a professional hit man ...

I love the wind whirling through ...

I want another one please.

She found it impossible to tell lies.



80 Story Starters ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Just do it!

Diamonds are forever.

He's fallen in the water.

Some like it hot.

His bark is worse than his bite.

Love makes the world go round.

An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

First up, best dressed.

King for a day!

Funny money

Laughter is the best medicine ...

He disappeared from sight.



80 Story Starters ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

We knew he wasn't to be trusted.

My mother quietly said, I told you so.

The explosion echoed around the valley.

Sometimes it's better to leave secrets alone.

We know the course of true love never runs smoothly.

It's a lie, she shrieked.

He smirked and was silent.

I want it sweet. OK?