

I. ABOUT THE ARTIST

LLOYD ARNEACH

Storytelling was an integral part of Native American culture. It was used to preserve the history of a tribe, to tell of great deeds and people, to explain how things came to be, and to teach.

Lloyd calls North Carolina's Great Smoky Mountains home. He was born and raised on the Qualla Boundary, better known as the Cherokee Reservation. As a young child, Lloyd first learned the stories of his people from two storytelling Uncles. A short time later he was traveling with a young group of Cherokees who would share their stories on weekends.

From 1970 to 1990 Lloyd traveled throughout the Southeast lecturing and teaching Cherokee culture in his spare time. In 1990 he started getting requests for Native American stories and once again he was telling stories.

Lloyd has been telling stories in schools, storytelling festivals and Indian Pow-wows since 1990. Once, after Lloyd shared stories at a Pow-wow, an Indian Elder came up to him with tears in his eyes. He looked at Lloyd, nodded and then left. Lloyd said, "Words were not necessary. It was the highest honor I could receive. In that moment, all my heartaches, pain and disappointment were swept away. I will carry that memory until it is my time."

Lloyd talks about storytelling, "In the old days if a child misbehaved, they would be told a story, in that story would be a lesson about how they should have behaved. My goal is to educate people about our culture through storytelling. I find out what type of stories interest the audience. Once I have their interest, I use a series of stories to tell them about our people, not just Cherokee, but other tribes also. An audience will leave our program knowing more about Indians than when they came in. There is great power and wisdom in the old stories for they are still teaching!"

II. ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Lloyd shares Native American stories ranging from creation stories to contemporary. The stories come from different tribes: Cherokee, Papago, Lakota, Cree, Nez Pierce, and Yahi, to name a few. From the "Trail of Tears" and Wounded Knee to behind the scenes of "Dances with Wolves". Stories about Native Americans: Jim Thorpe, Floyd Red Crowe Westerman, Billy Mills, Olympic Champion, a young Cree Indian girl with no stories to tell, a postmistress on the Papago Reservation, and Ishi, the last of the "wild" Indians.

Performances last approximately 30-40 minutes for Kindergarten through the third grades, 40-50 minutes for the fourth through the twelfth grades and 20-90 minutes for all other venues, depending on requests.

Lloyd's workshops, which discuss the importance of storytelling to Native Americans, also covers the do's and don'ts in telling Native American stories, with many explanations. Why a story told wearing certain attire would be insulting to Native Americans. Why the eagle is revered above all living creatures. Why the drum is so highly respected. With both performances and workshops, Lloyd shows the differences in our cultures. As he says, "The closer we look at the differences, perhaps we will discover that we are not so different after all!".

Lloyd's performances and workshops vary to fit his audience.

III. PRE-PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES

1. Introduce the following terms to your students before Lloyd's visit so that they will be familiar with them.

Their time had come - A person died.

Those who have gone on before - Those who are dead.

The Old Ones - Those who are dead.

The Old Days - Before the coming of the white man.

The Old Stories - Now called myths and legends. We called them the old stories, for they have been handed down from generation to generation.

The Old Ways - The way things were done before we were "civilized".

Elder - An older person who is respected for their knowledge and wisdom.

Winters - Not only did this mean a season of the year, but also was used to denote how old a person was. "I have seen 18 winters." - 18 years old.

Without honor - The lowest level a person could sink to, their word meant nothing, they could not be trusted, they would steal from their own people!!! - they have no HONOR!!!!!!!

2. Have students find out what tribes lived in their area. How large were they? Are any still alive? Can they find any stories about the tribes? Do any nearby locations have Indian names? How did they get their names?
3. Have the students describe how Indians live today. What kind of clothes do they wear? What kind of dwellings do they live in? How do they get their food? Let their impressions be heard without any corrections from the teacher.

IV. POST-PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES GUIDE

1. Questions for discussion:

- A) Why was honor so important?
- B) Why don't we honor each other as in the old days?
- C) What story do you remember the best and why?
- D) What type of clothing is worn today?
- E) How is food obtained?
- F) What kind of dwellings do they live in?
- G) Are they subject to State laws?
- H) Are the Old Ways still practiced?
- I) Do Hollywood movies show Indians accurately?
- J) Why are people so proud of their Indian heritage?
- K) What was the "Blood Oath"?
- L) What was the "Treaty Party"?
- M) Is Lloyd a typical Indian?
- N) What ONE lesson did you learn?

V. Modern Day Indian Terms

Agency.....Bureau of Indian Affairs Office. One is usually located on the larger federally recognized tribes reservation.

Dancer.....One who makes a living dancing in Pow-Wow competitions.

Elder.....Older Indian whose wisdom and words are respected.
(An honorable goal to strive for)

Federal Bureau
of Intimidation.....FBI - so-called because of the many homes they have broken into,
the threats they have made and the arrests against many Indians
on reservations without just cause. Leonard Pielter is only
one example.

Has a card.....The Bureau of Indian Affairs will issue cards to members of federally
recognized tribes to show they are Indians. Many Pow-Wows will only
allow Indians with cards to compete.

Non-Indian.....Person without Indian ancestry

New-Age.....Person with strange ideas about what an Indian is and does.

Old Indian.....Older Indian who was not attained the status of Elder

Pow-Wow.....Gathering of Indian and non-Indian to dance and sell Indian items.

Res.....Reservation

Skin.....Another Indian

Trader.....One who makes a living selling Indian made items at Pow-Wows.

Wannabe.....Non-Indian trying to be Indian.

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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One of the finest collections of Cherokee stories today. Good for all ages.