

A young boy with glasses and a girl are looking at a book together in a crowd. The boy is pointing at the book with his right hand. The girl is smiling and looking at the book. The background is a crowd of people, including a woman in a leopard print top and a man in a yellow shirt.

THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE

Help more children discover the love of reading.


Telling Tales
Celebrating Stories

Telling Tales believes that fostering a love of reading is a first step to developing literacy skills—and changing lives.

Reading opens new worlds for young people: empowering them to make informed choices, enabling them to imagine a more hopeful future, and equipping them with the ability to make that future a reality. Research shows that children who read have better educational, health, and social outcomes later in life. Literacy really is a key step on the pathway to broader social inclusion and fully engaged participation in society.

LITERACY HAS TAKEN A HIT.

Over the course of the pandemic, children's literacy has declined. Disrupted school schedules placed an extra burden on kids, families, and teachers, with many struggling to learn online and at home. Distractions, stress, and anxiety have eroded kids' reading ability and their enjoyment of it, and mental health has declined.

TEACHERS AND FAMILIES NEED QUALITY CANADIAN RESOURCES.

Parents and teachers have been looking for new resources to re-engage and encourage reluctant and disinterested young readers. In response to this need, Telling Tales produced a program of on-demand virtual resources and author presentations to provide the spark that kids crave and the support for literacy development that adults seek.

The good news is that reading has many positive side effects:

- *Reduces stress*
- *Boosts your mood*
- *Slows your heart rate and relaxes your muscles*
- *Increases knowledge and vocabulary*
- *Fosters imagination and creativity*



"Telling Tales has provided a needed bit of screen time for our family that's educational and fun! My kids were excited to see an illustrator talk about her work and see the story come to life. It's inspired them and spurred their own creativity."

- Mother of two boys age 4 and 6, Hamilton

We believe that when children and storytellers connect children find new ways to fall in love with reading. Our programs have been reaching kids at home and in classrooms through virtual presentations enriched with interactive question and answer sessions, aligned classroom activities, and opportunities for kids to share their creative work on the Telling Tales website.

In 2021, Telling Tales connected over 10,000 Hamilton children with Canada's finest authors and illustrators through virtual classroom visits!

THE CHALLENGE: INCREASED DEMAND FOR BOTH VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON PROGRAMS.

We're experiencing increased demand from schools, parents, and service providers for virtual programming to continue long after the pandemic. ***We plan to offer our on-demand virtual programming throughout the year in addition to bringing back our annual in-person festival and other vital in-person programs.***

To accomplish this vision and reach those in our community who are MOST in need, ***we require an increased level of stable, operational funding*** from both public educational sources and private donations.

"I am so excited to share these resources with students. It's a great addition to our virtual classroom learning. My only request is more, please!"

- Jennifer Brink, Intermediate Teacher,
Elementary Remote Program, Upper Grand
District School Board



Telling Tales believes that any intervention that will encourage a reluctant reader to engage in any mode of storytelling is a worthy endeavour.

"When I finished the book I wanted a second part. I wanted to travel back in time and read it again without knowing anything that was about to happen."

- Bareerah, Grade 4, Hamilton, Ontario

STORIES FOSTER UNDERSTANDING, COMPASSION, AND CONNECTION BETWEEN US ALL.

Storytelling is powerful because it creates an emotional connection that allows us to gain a deeper understanding of other people's experiences. Through stories, we bond with our families, our friends, and our heroes.

As a society and as a community, we need to prove that we truly value literacy, imagination, creativity, and inclusion. Telling Tales is proud to do just that. We are not only delivering outstanding literacy programming; we are helping to create a better world.



WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US!



Volunteer, make a monthly or annual donation, or leave a legacy gift.
Contact susan@tellingtales.org

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