

TEACHERS GIVE SPELLBINDERS AN A+

98% of teachers report: having a Spellbinders storyteller in the classroom helps students achieve academic goals! Teachers also agree that Spellbinders builds the key skills detailed at right.

BUILDS VOCABULARY 96%

ENHANCES LISTENING SKILLS 99%

EXPANDS WORLDVIEW 98%

ENHANCES IMAGINATION & CREATIVITY 99%

IMPROVES READING SCORES 89%

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Teacher Testimonial

Why I would never give up Spellbinders...despite CCSS, PARCC testing and new curriculum

“As a teacher, I am asked to stretch my academic schedule to bursting. I feel the strain of incorporating the new mandates: Common Core curricula, 21st technology skills, preparing for PARCC testing....the list goes on, the plate gets fuller. **But ask me the one thing I will not push to the side no matter what? It is my storyteller’s time slot.**”

“Spellbinders storytelling is my oasis of calm in a demanding, fast-paced teaching world. It is a moment when my class tunes into the timeless pleasure of hearing a story. In just 30 minutes, my class slows down. We connect with our humanity. We lean in and listen to a story unfold. We learn about real-life heroes, social issues and the truth within fables. We visualize the stories’ details, ride the arc of building tension, make meaningful world connections and learn new vocabulary. We engage in great discussions and make cross-generational relationships. **Storytelling meets the standards and elevates them. The art of storytelling is a 21st Century skill.** Watch any high-powered TED talk and see which speakers shine and engage their audience—they are the storytellers! Give your students a moment to engage themselves in a powerful way. Log off the computer. Sign up for a storyteller!”

Lisa, 3rd Grade Teacher, Aspen Elementary School -- May 5, 2014

Letter: Spellbound by Spellbinders

- We think you should know about the Spellbinders storytelling group.
- They are volunteers who tell stories that make kids' imaginations grow from sprouts to big oak trees. The stories they tell can be fiction or nonfiction.
- Storytellers are special; our storyteller tells us cool stories about heroes and heroines from the Giraffe Heroes Project.
- After every story, we hang a picture that reminds us of the story on a giraffe banner. The pictures remind us of the heroes who have stretched out their necks to help others.
- We think Jackie Merrill is the best storyteller ever! She's very nice and tells the most wonderful stories.
- She is like a dolphin with a lot of friends, and she is the one who taught all the dolphins to dive into the water and dive down deep.
- We can't think of one person who wouldn't want to hear her tell stories.
- She always brings an orb that turns on our brains to listen to her.
- The stories calm our minds.
- She doesn't show us pictures, so we can visualize the pictures how we want them.
- We think it is important to have a time when you can visualize people who are from another generation and appreciate all their hard work that has changed the world.
- Stories like the one about kids saving elephants and rhinos inspire us to help the world more.
- Spellbinders are the best because they tell amazing stories that we can picture.
- We should all notice storytellers and how they help our imaginations flow.
- They connect your brain to facts, creativity and even heroes.
- We are very lucky that Spellbinders storytellers like telling stories at our school.
- You should get a storyteller in your classroom because they are so fun, and the best part is that they volunteer for free.