What is Spellbinders®?

How is it relevant to my classroom?

Spellbinders:
- Supports your delivery of the ELA CCSS. (just ask for fact sheet)
- Is backed by independent research and teacher observation. (just ask for fact sheet)
- Trains and places volunteers as oral storytellers in local classrooms – **yes, telling, not reading**.
- Provides 20 to 40 minute storytelling sessions based upon **your needs** as a teacher.
- Returns each month so that children form long-term relationships with caring community members.
- Gives you a fun, engaging and effective tool for your literacy building efforts.
- Has more than 25 years of success in schools.
- Is a Colorado-based nonprofit with Chapters across the nation.
- Has nearly 400 volunteers nationwide paired with more than 2,500 classrooms.

Why oral storytelling?
- Listening and speaking are core skills that cross all content areas.
- Oral storytelling requires students to visualize and imagine. This supports reading comprehension and evokes critical thinking skills which are essential to all higher learning.
- Tales from around the world expand a child’s world view.
- Fables and folktales evoke grit, resiliency and perseverance as they show dragons can indeed be slain and that heroes and heroines can come from the most unlikely places.
- Efforts that bring community members into the school increase hope and engagement in students which is linked to academic achievement. (Lopez, Shane. *Hope, Academic Success and the Gallup Student Poll*. Gallup Inc. 2009.)
- Kids LOVE it making it a great stealth, literacy-building tool.

"Spellbinders' storytelling reinforces our teachers' efforts to foster a love of literature by complementing almost every component of our literacy efforts."
— Diana Sirko while Deputy Commissioner, CO Dept. of Education

"Dear grand bear - your storys inspire me to wright more and tell storys. I love your storys they make my minde run free"
— student, age 9

"Researchers have found that potential employers want their employees to have mastered two aspects of literacy often omitted from school curricula: listening and speaking."

"I love it when you tell us your stories. To me your stories are more than a story. It is like a movie to me, or more than that, like I'm in the story."
— student, age 10 (grammar edited)
**Teacher Evaluation of the Spellbinders® Program**

2,348 respondents nationwide over 5 school years (ending ‘13 to ‘17) whose classrooms were each visited 5+ times a year by a Spellbinders storyteller.

“Is having a Spellbinders storyteller tell stories in your classroom helpful to you in achieving your academic goals for your students?”

98% of respondents replied YES

On a scale of 0 to 5, in your observation in your classroom, the Spellbinders program:

- Enhances students’ imagination, creativity and visualization.  **4.81**
- Enhances students’ listening skills and ability to pay attention.  **4.80**
- Expands students’ worldview by exposing them to many cultures and times.  **4.75**
- Enhances students’ understanding of story structure.  **4.59**
- Enhances students’ vocabulary and verbal communication skills.  **4.58**
- Increases students’ interest in reading and improves their reading skills.  **4.40**
- Enhances students’ recall and comprehension scores.  **4.42**
- Enhances students’ problem solving (critical thinking) skills.  **4.28**
- Enhances students’ writing performance.  **3.94**

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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