

STORIES

Once upon a time and they lived happily ever after are stories as good as any. Remember those days when you were little and the Grim brothers were whispering in your ears or when Hans Christian Andersen told tales of ugly ducklings or Astrid Lindgren wrote about that girl with a backpack full of gold coins and could lift a horse. Then you might have progressed to read about the adventures of Marco Polo or the Bingham's excavation of Maccu Piccu. Heyerdahl and his Kon-Tiki raft or that diary of Anne Frank.

Stories are all around us and everywhere. We just need to open our eyes and we can smell both Willy Wonka's and that chocolate factory or Oliver Twist when he reaches out and asks if he can have some more. There are tales of more than two cities. Hopefully you have experienced both the pure shiver and exhilarating sensation down our spine and brain.

These stories make people show their register of feelings. From pure fear as in Hitchcock's *The Birds* or that roaring laughter in anything with the late Robin Williams. Palin's journeys from Pole to Pole to Boudin's zest for life. Dream walks of the Aborigines to the Norse sagas. Add to that the Emperor's new clothes and idiotic tweets from Trump. Stories and made up facts can be found everywhere.

If you can tell a story you have such an upper hand in many situations and it is a true joy to share these idiosyncrasies and twisted pathways. With a story you can get that razor-sharp attention and make people laugh and cry and think. With these stories we continue the tradition of generations of sharing and we learn more about ourselves and each other. That can never be a bad thing.

Please keep on telling those tales no matter how big or small they may be. You will probably both amaze and annoy. So clear that golden throat and make your own twist on the Goldilocks or trolls under a bridge. It is such a joy and a feeling of being part of something larger than yourself.

Let us connect the world we live in. Some of the stories have moral sense and

others are there just for a baffle or a belly roar. Hopefully they make us reflect and put some seed of compassion and understanding in our somewhat dormant brains.

Good luck.

