

4th ANNUAL

Rome, Georgia • March 16-18, 2018

BIG FIBBETS™

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

Featuring



Stories are
for everyone!

With



**Carol
Cain**



**Delmas
Franklin**



**Walter
Freeman**



**Chetter
Galloway**



**Natalie
Jones**



**Helen
Keefer**



**Kirsten
Mitchell**



**Juliana
Washington**

AND MORE!



We are proud to support the
RIDGE & VALLEY TELLERS
and
BIG FIBBERS FESTIVAL

since 2014 through our Chiaha Guild Art Education
and Performing Arts Education Mini-Grant Programs.

October 27 & 28, 2018 • 10 AM - 5 PM
Ridge Ferry Park • Rome, GA
www.chiaha.org

WELCOME TO THE 4TH BIG FIBBERS FESTIVAL!

The Ridge & Valley Storytelling Guild could not be more excited about our 4th Big Fibbers Festival! It culminates months of planning, many Storytelling Club meetings in schools, and a week in which Bobby and Sherry Norfolk have shared their artistry, energy, and entertaining tales with several thousand area students.

We love storytelling because it allows tellers and listeners to express and experience creativity and humor, to process memorable experiences, to keep our loved ones and varied cultures alive for future generations, and to share life lessons learned with each other and posterity.

Our organization has one main goal: To promote storytelling in Northwest Georgia. We do that year-round through our monthly Time to Tell meetings, Story Night at Schroeder's Deli in July, Tellabration in November, YoungTales program throughout the school year and Big Fibbers Festival in March.

Everyone is invited to join us. We welcome listeners as well as tellers and those who want to become tellers. Our motto is "Storytelling is for Everyone!" To keep up with our events, find us on Facebook and at www.bigfibbers.com.

Terrell Shaw, President
Ridge & Valley Storytelling Guild

Ridge & Valley Storytelling Guild is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

2018 BIG FIBBERS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

March 16-18, 2018
All events at the Charles Parker Center
1325 Kingston Hwy., Rome, GA 30161

Friday, March 16

7 p.m. Nationally and internationally acclaimed tellers Bobby & Sherry Norfolk will enchant and entertain you with vibrant, spellbinding storytelling. You don't want to miss this highlight of the festival!

Saturday, March 17

9-11:30 a.m. Compelling Characters! Drawing on his background in theatre and comedy, Bobby shows you how to use voice, gesture, movement and sound effects to enhance your stories.

9-11:30 a.m. The Storytelling Classroom: Applications Across the Curriculum—A hands-on introduction to the art of storytelling and its magical ability to engage students in learning across the curriculum, not just in language arts.

2 p.m. Debby Brown YoungTales Storytelling Competition. Young tellers, selected from participants in the YoungTales Storytelling Clubs in area schools, vie for best teller as they share stories they developed from "troubles" and "lessons learned." Emceed by Sherry and Bobby Norfolk.

5 p.m. Nothing But The Truth. Local and regional storytellers share personal narratives and (mostly) true real-life tales, featuring Delmas Franklin of Rome, Chetter Galloway of Atlanta, Helen Keefer of Cedartown and Kirsten Mitchell of Asheville, NC.

8 p.m. 242nd* Annual Big Fibbers Contest. Who will win the Whopper Hat this year? A dozen tall tale tellers will perform for the fame, prestige and title of 2018 Biggest Fibber.

Sunday, March 18

9:30 a.m. Sacred Tellings. Hear stories from the heart from Bobby and Sherry as well as Natalie Jones of Marietta, who was the 2016 Big Fibbers winner and one of 2017's featured tellers.

11 a.m. One for the Road. The festival concludes with more stories from Bobby and Sherry plus Carol Cain of LaGrange, GA, one of our 2017 featured tellers.

*It's really the 9th contest, but exaggeration is what it's all about. Tall tales have been around since at least 1776!

Ticket Prices

Full Festival: \$25 in advance (online at bigfibbers.com); \$35 at the door. Workshops (\$25) are additional.

Single Events:

Friday evening: \$15

Saturday 5 p.m.: \$10

Saturday 8 p.m.: \$15

Saturday workshops: \$25

YoungTales Competition and Sunday performances: Free, but donations accepted.

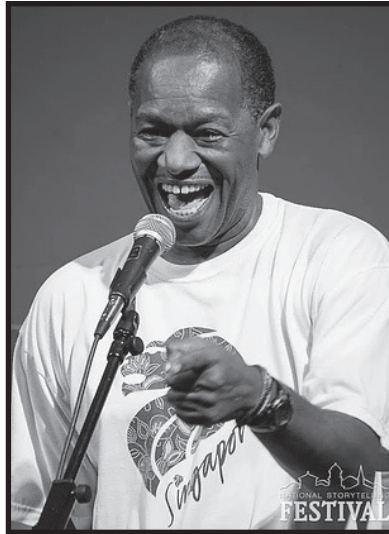
Find more information at www.bigfibbers.com or follow Ridge & Valley Tellers on Facebook.

2018 FEATURED TELLERS

Bobby Norfolk

Bobby grew up a shy child in North St. Louis, MO, with a debilitating stutter. His path toward storytelling and success began in 1961 when he suddenly overcame his stutter when performing in a fourth-grade poetry recital.

Today Bobby is an internationally acclaimed story performer and teaching artist whose innate ability to connect with audiences of all ages makes him one of America's premier storytellers.



Using dynamic movement and vocal effects, he brings to life a multitude of vibrant personalities including historical figures. His stories promote good character, cultural diversity, and literacy, inspiring and motivating audiences of all ages. "No fancy electronics, just teller, listener, and the imagination."

Bobby's career has included theatre, stand-up comedy, television, recording and writing. As host of the CBS TV show "Gator Tales" he won three Emmy awards. He has recorded more than 10 CDs, many receiving the prestigious Parents Choice Gold Award, and co-authored eight children's books.

In 2016 he released his autobiography chronicling his path from childhood stutterer to professional storyteller. Entitled *Eye to the Sky: Storytelling on the Edge of Magic*, the book was a winner in the 2017 Storytelling World Awards Program. Learn more about Bobby at www.bobbynorfolk.com.

Sherry Norfolk

Storyteller, performing artist, author, college professor, leader and educator in the field of professional storytelling – **Sherry Norfolk** does it all.

As a storyteller and performing artist, she has a strong, clear, direct stage presence that immediately connects to audiences of all ages. Her use of tones, timbres, and rhythms breaths life into her rich repertoire of folktales from around the world.



As a workshop leader and educator, Sherry combines a belief in the power of story with an inborn talent for teaching, an infectious enthusiasm, and a dynamic energy that revitalizes classroom teachers, administrators and other participants.

She is a sought-after conference speaker on the potential of arts integration to transform whole schools by inspiring students to greater joy and achievement in learning.

As a leader in the professional storytelling field, Sherry has served as President and Chairman of the Board of the National Storytelling Network (NSN) and received the NSN's 2011 Oracle Award for distinguished service.

She has co-authored many award-winning books for children and adults, including the recently released *Storytelling Strategies for Reaching and Teaching Children with Special Needs*, co-authored with storyteller Lyn Ford. Learn more about Sherry at www.sherrynorfolk.com.

TELLERS—NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH



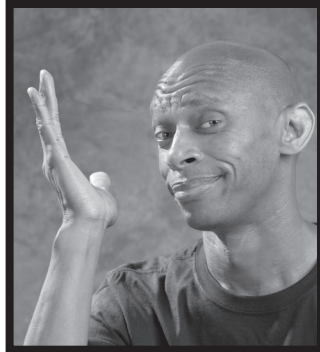
Delmas Franklin of Rome, GA

Longtime participation in Toastmasters led to involvement in storytelling for this native of Rome. Delmas draws from personal experiences ranging from service in Viet Nam to being a grandfather for his insightful stories based on real life. Delmas has told at the annual

Tellabration! program in Rome and serves as treasurer of the Ridge & Valley Storytelling Guild. In addition to storytelling, he enjoys traveling and hiking.

Chetter Galloway of Atlanta, GA

Chetter is a raconteur of African and African-American stories. A native of Suffolk, VA, he is the youngest of ten children and remembers his father telling stories on road trips. He first experienced the power of storytelling at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Williamsburg, VA and honed his craft at East Tennessee State University in the Masters of Storytelling Program. He has recorded three storytelling CDs and has performed at Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta Dogwood Festival, The Fernbank Museum, The High Museum of Fine Art, The National Black Arts Festival and the Smithsonian Museum.



SATURDAY, 5 P.M.



Helen Keefer of Cedartown, GA

Helen is a not-so-young, new storyteller who loves to share the stories heard at her father's knee. Retired from the Georgia School for the Deaf, she rarely keeps her hands still as she shares stories of the values, adventures, and trials of those who were members of

America's Greatest Generation. With an eye on someday capturing the Big Fibber Hat (and she might not be above stealing one if she could figure out how to do that), she is getting practice and support from the members of the Ridge and Valley Storytellers as she learns the craft of storytelling.

Kirsten Mitchell of Asheville, NC

Kirsten has been telling stories for as long as she can remember. Her younger sister claims that Kirsten's tales of escaped convicts hiding out in the basement of the home where they grew up in Maine has scarred her for life! Happily, not all of Kirsten's stories have had such a detrimental effect. She has performed at libraries, schools, day cares, summer camps, festivals, and parties, for adults and children of all ages. Since retiring from her career in social work, she has become a member of the Asheville Storytelling Circle and joined in Asheville's vibrant storytelling scene.





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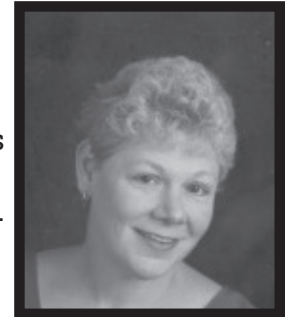
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SUNDAY TELLERS

Natalie Jones of Marietta, GA

Natalie will join Bobby and Sherry on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the session of "Sacred Tellings." She won the Big Fibbers Contest in 2016 with an imaginative and pun-filled version of The Three Little Pigs. She was a featured teller at the 2017 Big Fibbers Festival along with Carol Cain. Natalie enchants audiences from pre-schoolers to adults, motivating younger audiences to read, write and act out stories while she inspires parents, educators and family members to find and share stories of their own.



Carol Cain of LaGrange, GA

Carol will join Bobby and Sherry in "One for the Road" at the closing session of the Big Fibbers Festival on Sunday at 11 a.m. She holds audiences in the palm of her hand as she weaves stories from her own experiences growing up as the baby girl in a set of six siblings in Hogansville, GA. Carol was a featured teller at the 2017 Big Fibbers Festival and she has also performed at the Azalea Storytelling Festival in LaGrange, the Timpanogos Festival in Orem, Utah, and the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, TN. For the past 23 years Carol has portrayed Rosie the Riveter at the Little White House in Warm Springs, GA and she has taken that performance to conventions of the Rosie the Riveter Association and the National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary.



BIG FIBBERS CONTESTANTS

Frank Causey, Lawrenceville, GA

Frank has been a storyteller for almost 20 years. Whether it's at the podium at Toastmasters or on stage at Stories on the Square, Frank entertains. And his tales are apt to be quite tall. Frank came in third in the 2015 Big Fibbers Contest. Can he take the top prize this time around?



Darrell Fedchak, Silver Bay, NY

Darrell has been telling stories for most of his life, often as everyone's favorite camp counselor. Many of his stories come from real life, with a healthy dose of "fibbing" thrown in. He writes children's books and nowadays has a devoted audience of three little girls who are delighted by the madcap predicaments their dad can get into.



Walter Freeman, Loganville, GA
Walter's boss, coaching him for an important presentation, declared him a storyteller. It was not a compliment. Now he wears the title proudly as the reigning 2017 Big Fibber. He grew up in Georgia, but then "fell in with a bad crowd" and retired as a chemical company executive in Delaware. Can Walter defend his title and continue wearing the Whopper Hat?



Pepper Hagebak, LaGrange, GA

Pepper grew up sitting under her Grandmaw's antique dining table, listening to stories. Her grandmother and "Mama" could talk for hours, regaling company or just one another, or the refrigerator, if no one else was available, about family history or fixes they'd gotten into. Pepper says, "I am a writer, but telling stories was so familiar to me that I didn't even know I was a storyteller until I was invited to speak about a column I had written." She was raised in LaGrange, GA and went all the way through school in that beautiful little town she still calls home.



Ron Kemp, Roswell, GA

Ron Kemp specializes in original humorous stories from small town America. He has been an active storyteller for over 20 years for churches and civic organizations as well as several storytelling festivals in the southeast, including the Peach State Festival in Atlanta.



Melanie Knauff, Dahlgonega, GA

After accidentally setting fire to a gas station, romping around the pyramids on a camel, and hiking a trail 1,500 feet off the canyon floor, Melanie moved from sunny South Florida to Dahlgonega to lead a more calm life. Fortunately, she brought crazy with her and it comes through in her stories. She is zany, loaded with energy and full of pun fun.



BIG FIBBETZ CONTESTANTS

Denise Mount, Lawrenceville, GA

A member of the Southern Order of Storytellers, Denise Mount is co-founder with her husband, Mike, of Stories on the Square in Gwinnett County. She is the elder half of the Raconteuses storytelling duo with her daughter, Sarah Beth Nelson. She prefers personal stories, but also enjoys giving her own spin to an urban legend or two and will now attempt a whopper!



Mike Mount, Lawrenceville, GA
Cofounder and emcee of Stories on the Square – Gwinnett, Mike says he has “never told a story in my life.” Add to that bald-faced statement his nativity and raisin’ in the great state of Alabama and anyone will know the man is qualified for this contest.



Kanute Rarey, Hayesville, NC

Storyteller, traveler, writer, and teacher, Kanute was born and raised on a farm in rural Ohio. He moved to the mountains as soon as he could and for over 25 years has frequented the mountains of Georgia, North Carolina and Alaska. He has performed at the Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival, the Moth StorySlam in Asheville, and the John C. Campbell Folk School. He hones his skills at Clay and Cherokee County, NC care centers and schools and claims to be “head-liner” at Pat’s Barber Shop in Hayesville.



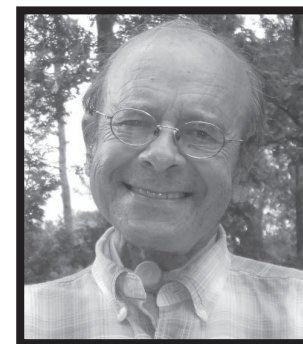
Tim Rouse, Bristol, TN

Tim is happily married and unendingly apologetic to his long-suffering wife, Lidany. He has five daughters, a brand new granddaughter, and three dogs. Tim loves nothing more than to hear people laugh and says laughter is the “song that your soul sings.” Tim grew up hearing the stories of his family and he swears it’s all true “. . . mostly!” Tim is a writer/editor and the author of a series of western novels.



John Schulz, Rome, GA

John is proof that, with a six-year English degree from UGA, a garbage truck driver can become an English teacher. “The teaching thing didn’t last and I became a landscape person and spent the next 35 years trying to make a living at it. During part of this time, I went to live with the rednecks. I documented that experience in two books, *Requiem for a Redneck* and *Redemption for a Redneck*. These two books form the Redneck Trilogy. My third book, written after I became a cancer survivor, is *Sweetie Drives on Chemo Days – Facing Cancer with Humor and Optimism*.”



Leslie Shelley, Ball Ground, GA

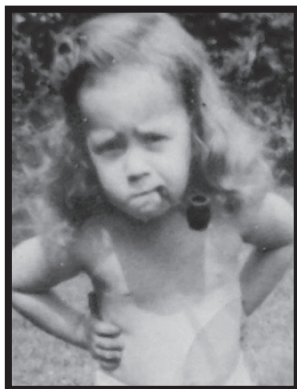
Leslie Shelley grew up in a large family in the foothills of North Georgia on a portion of the farm passed down since the 1800s. Life on the farm was filled with tall tales, tragic stories, and friends and family made bigger, better, or worse by the stories about them. Most of her stories are from “bits and pieces of my life with grains of sand mixed in, or really Georgia red dirt.”



YOUNGTALES STORYTELLING PROGRAM

In Memory of **Debby Brown**

Debby Brown, our dear friend and inspiration, provided the impetus for the first Big Fibbers Contest in 2010. While organizing wonderful local events that included storytelling, she dreamed of holding a major festival in Rome that would feature national tellers, give local and regional tellers a chance to develop their skills, and promote storytelling as art, entertainment and education.



Debby notoriously disliked having her picture taken, but this photo of a young Debby says it all.

After Debby's untimely death, the Big Fibbers Festival was launched. A vital element is the YoungTales program which involves hundreds of area students participating in storytelling clubs where they learn to find, develop, and tell their own stories. The program culminates in the Debby Brown YoungTales Story Competition in which one student from each school vies for the title of YoungTales Champion.

2017 YOUNGTALES CHAMPION

Juliana Washington



Currently a fifth grader at West Central Elementary School, Juliana will tell her winning story from 2017 as part of this year's YoungTales event.

YOUNGTALES STORYTELLING PROGRAM

2018 Participating Schools

Thank you to the students, teachers, and administrators at our 13 YoungTales schools! We could not do it without your support! In the past week, Bobby and Sherry Norfolk performed for large audiences at each of these schools.

Good luck to all the students participating in the 2018 Debby Brown YoungTales Competition. You are amazing! Keep on listening, creating, and telling your stories!

Rome City Schools

Anna K. Davie Elementary
East Central Elementary
North Heights Elementary
West Central Elementary
West End Elementary

Floyd County Schools

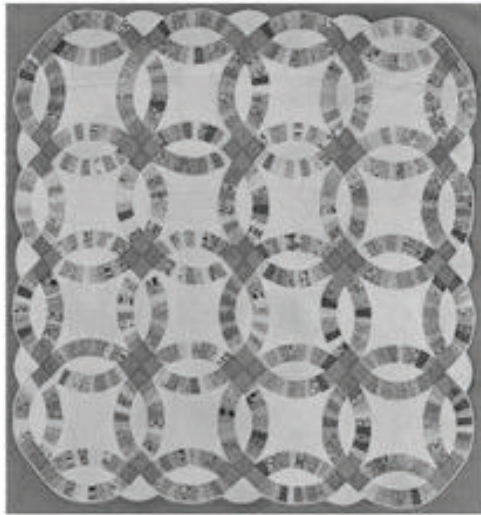
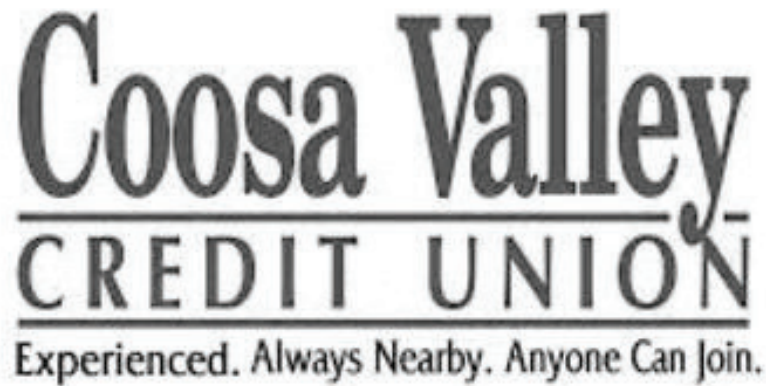
Armuchee Elementary
Garden Lakes Elementary
Johnson Elementary
Model Elementary

Walker County Schools

Naomi Elementary

Independent Schools

Berry College Elementary & Middle School
Montessori School of Rome
St. Mary's Catholic School



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YOUNGTALES STORYTELLING PROGRAM

How It Works

The YoungTales program promotes the enjoyment, appreciation, and perpetuation of the art of storytelling by introducing students to nationally known storytellers and giving them the tools and opportunity to become storytellers themselves.

- One of our featured Big Fibbers Tellers performs for all grade levels at each of the participating schools during festival week. Several thousand school children experience outstanding storytelling through this part of the program.
- Local storytellers who are also certified teachers lead as many as six Storytelling Club meetings in each school to guide selected students as they hear, study, develop, and tell stories based on their own personal experiences.
- Each club member receives a YoungTales "trouble" notebook to record story ideas.
- One student from each school may compete in the Debby Brown YoungTales Competition.
- In its first year of participation, each school receives a copy of the "Make It, Tell It, Write It" DVD by Donald Davis, the "dean" of American storytelling.

"The [YoungTales] Program is nothing short of amazing, and I'm not just referring to the incredibly talented performers who come to the school to tell their stories....I appreciate the special opportunity it provides for students who would otherwise have hidden their talents."

— **Tiffany Abbott Fuller**, Literacy Coach,
West End Elementary,
regarding the 2017 YoungTales Program



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WORKSHOPS

Sherry Norfolk

**The Storytelling Classroom:
Applications Across the
Curriculum**

Saturday, 9-11:30 a.m.

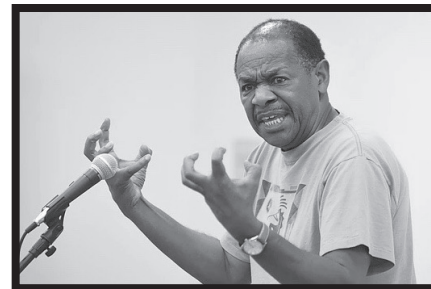
This workshop provides a hands-on introduction to the art of storytelling and its magical ability to engage students in learning in multiple subject areas, not just language arts. In this workshop Sherry demonstrates how storytelling nurtures both the imaginative and analytical sides of a student's brain, making it a powerful learning tool that spans and integrates multiple subject areas while inspiring both students and teachers.



Bobby Norfolk

Compelling Characters

Saturday, 9-11:30 a.m.



Bobby, a wizard at conjuring life-like and unforgettable characters, will help

storytellers at all levels of experience to find their own unique voices.

- Add new dimensions to your style
- Enrich your performances
- Make your storytelling appeal to audiences of all ages

Drawing on his background in theatre and comedy, Bobby shows you how to use your voice, gesture, movement and sound effects to enhance your stories.



May 11-12
Ridge Ferry Park
 romanroastontheriver.com
FREE ADMISSION!!

- **Barbeque Competition:** BBQ teams will battle it out to become this year's Grand Champion!
- **Kid's Q:** Does your tiny chef has what it takes? Test their skills here.
- **FREE CONCERT:** Friday feat. Curiosity Shoppe sponsored by Parker Systems. Coolers are welcomed.
- **King of the Wings:** For \$10 per person come try our team's wings and vote for your favorite! Benefits to go to **Floyd County Special Olympics** (sponsored by Springer Mountain Farms)
- **Car Show:** Saturday sponsored by Armuchee Ruritan Club
- **Vendors and Much More!**

Now Accepting Backyard and Kid's Q Applications!



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Healing stories of family



Lyn Ford
"Home-fried" Appalachian tales



Rev. Robert B. Jones
Traditional stories and sacred blues



Michael Reno Harrell
Appalachian grit and wit



Andy Offutt Irwin
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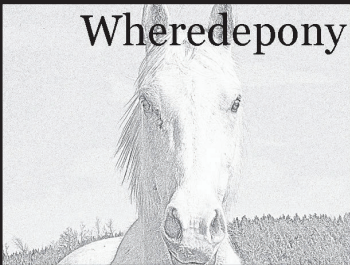
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Rome International Film Festival
The Rome News-Tribune
Southern Order of Storytellers
LaGrange Society for the Performing Arts
Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival

Special thanks to the **Lavender Mountain Quilt Guild** for the beautiful quilts decorating our festival venue! You can also see their works at the Sara Hightower Regional Library until March 31.

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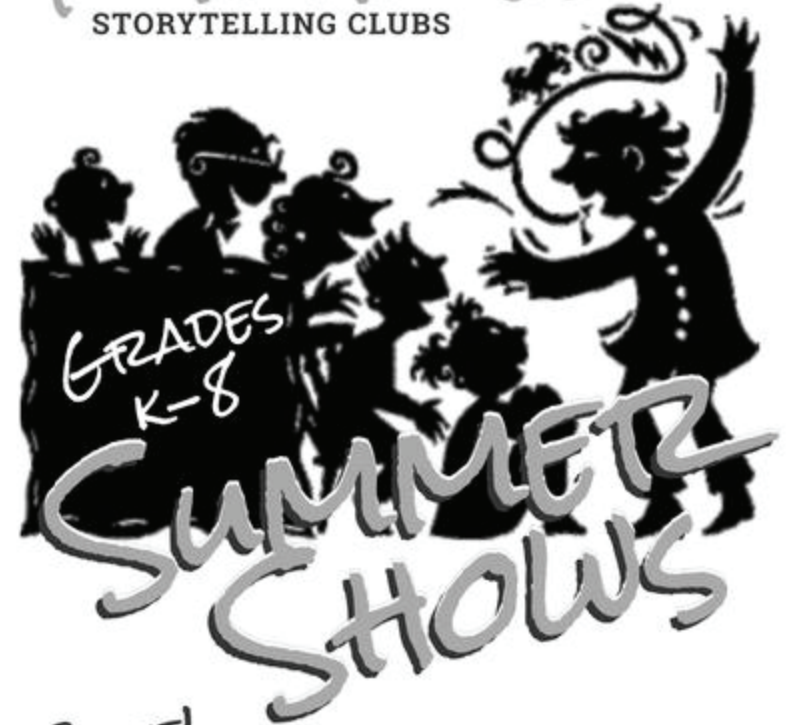
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