

INTRODUCTION

Because these stories were originally transmitted orally, we feel strongly that the introduction to them should be presented in an oral fashion. Therefore, we recommend that before students read the first story, *The Weasel and the Eagle*, each teacher either memorizes the story and recites it to the class or tries retelling it coming as close to the original story as possible.

This experience is invaluable in becoming sensitive to the intricacies of the oral tradition which we hope teachers will share with their students. Many activities required of the students involve developing their abilities to tell stories (see Firetalk activity card) and each teacher, having gone through a similar experience, will better be able to help students. The activities are also suggestions for getting students to participate in a broad range of discourse through language arts.

We also encourage teachers to invite local story tellers into the classroom as often as possible.

With other stories it would be helpful to periodically repeat this type of story introduction or perhaps draft students to try it. Another option for later stories is to read the story several times and then tape record it to play for the class.