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**“We are as species, addicted to the story.
Even when the body goes to sleep, the mind
stays up all night, telling itself stories.”**

**Jonathan Gottschal,
American Literary Scholar**

The Lucky, Unlucky Day

Warm-Up*

(10 to 20 mins)

Questions:

Have you ever been lucky and unlucky all in one day? Let's try to create a story taking turns developing a story one sentence at a time, BUT each sentence must begin with "Fortunately" or "Unfortunately" depending upon whose turn comes up.

Procedure:

If you are using this exercises with early elementary students, I'd suggest changing the name of the exercises to "Luckily and Unluckily". Those words are more familiar to them and not such a mouthful for young students. Watch for non sequiturs—those sentences that do not make sense and continue the story that has already been created. Again, if I notice that the story isn't going anywhere, I coach the students such as, "John just said 'Fortunately the chicken flew away from the hungry fox.' What could happen to the chicken that would be unfortunate?"



Rationale for Storytelling

Everyone who can speak can tell stories. We tell them informally as we relate the mishaps and wonders of our day-to-day lives. We gesture, exaggerate our voices, pause for effect. Listeners learn from the details of our tale in their minds. Often they learn from the details of our lives from their own lives. Writers find those details easier to capture in writing. Writers value the rehearsal, or prewriting, stage of composing. Sitting in a circle and swapping personal or fictional tales is one of the best ways to help writers rehearse.

Listeners encounter both familiar and unfamiliar patterns in a story. They learn new words and phrases from the details of the story who regularly tell stories become aware of how an audience affects a telling, and they carry that awareness into their writing. The patterns in both oral and written compositions. Learning and experienced patterns as they tackle unfamiliar texts. The patterns in both oral and written compositions.

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Warm-Up

(10 to 15 mins)

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Effective Storytelling Techniques:

These are guidelines for you:

- Chooses interesting stories that are suitable for the audience
- Prepares and rehearses the story
- Uses words the audience understands
- Uses FCS
- Uses language
- Uses voice by changing the tone, pitch, inflection, and volume to suit the appropriate parts of the story
- Adds character voices and dialogue where needed
- Makes eye contact with the audience
- Adds humor when appropriate
- Adds props
- Gives the listener time to
- But
- Creates a "once upon a time" feeling as the story begins
- Enjoys sharing the story with the audience

