



Mr. Novak,  
Thank you so much for coming to Echo Hill and performing for the students & staff! The whole school had been anticipating your arrival (anxiously!) since the day they first learned about you! I haven't stopped hearing about how fantastic your performances were, and I have to agree with them! You have been, hands down, the best visiting author/illustrator we have EVER had at Lin-Mar! I've never seen our students so engaged, they absolutely loved you!

Thank you again, and we hope to see you again soon!

Eddie Hugo  
Echo Hill Elementary  
Marion, IA



**David Novak** is a remarkable speaker with a background in theatre arts including Shakespeare, clowning, creative dramatics, playwriting, and directing.

**David Novak** creates experiences to entertain imagination, engage emotion, and discover common ground. His storytelling is highly interactive, live, and immediate, and he will invariably surprise his audience by transforming everyday objects into magical props to enhance his stories.



## STORYTELLING SESSIONS:

A storytelling session lasts between 45 and 60 minutes. It begins with David conversationally introducing himself, and doing some kind of warm-up activity to involve the audience and mark the beginning of the performance. Typically, one session will consist of several stories of varying length, style and type, including personal, folk and original stories.

The range is wide. It goes from rhymes, riddles, finger plays and occasional onstage participation for younger children, all the way up to performances in which David explores the relationship between mythology, the hero's journey and our own life stories with senior students.

"He tells his stories with great physical awareness, a real sense of suspense, humor, and integrity. His range, personality, warmth, truthfulness, imagination, ability to transform, taste, all combined, make him a unique artist."

June Dunbar, Artistic Director,  
Lincoln Center Institute

## Performed live, in person, virtually via Zoom or pre-recorded in chapters

### On Site Requirements

**Space:** A performance area of at least 10'x10', protected from the elements. A stool, small table, and water are requested.

**Sound:** Where the space requires support or the audience exceeds 100, a sound system to be provided by the school (microphone on a stand, no podiums).

## First Books\*

With Finger Plays, Paper Folds, and Strings, David Novak shows how tellers made the first books.

**Grade Level:** K-5

**Cultural Origin:** African; Asian; European; Native American; Pacific Islander

**Program Description:** Books are devices for holding stories. Storytellers told stories with finger plays, rhyme schemes, or string figures, long before writing was invented. Your students will see a variety of skills to make oral presentation engaging and informative. "First Books" includes original finger plays, paper, sand, and string stories. Participation, physical and vocal histrionics, clever language, and creative use of objects engages all listeners.



## A Storytellers' Fire\*

World tales of many types with original treatments of folklore, myth, and fable.



**Grade Level:** K-5

**Cultural Origin:** African; Asian; European; Latino; Middle Eastern; Native American; Pacific Islander

**Program Description:** David leads the audience in creating an imaginary fire, then weaves world tales by its warmth. *A Storytellers' Fire* addresses Essential Standards in Theatre Arts and Common Core for ELA. Careful selection of material, opportunities to participate, and the associations formed between stories involve the listener.

## Other Eyes: Looking at Myth\*

World mythology

**Grade Level:** Middle and High

**Cultural Origin:** African; Greek; Native American; Pacific Islander, +c.

**Program Description:** Part performance, part lecture, *Other Eyes* examines ways of seeing and understanding world mythology. *Other Eyes* consists of stories from a variety of world myth, chosen to suit the audience, time, and venue. Typically the program concludes with a creative adaption of the Greek myth, Theseus & The Minotaur, during which Mr. Novak weaves the story with a thirty foot rope and the participation of several audience members.



\*All programs are customizable. All schools consult with David to assure the best selection of stories to suit grade levels, curriculum, and time of year.



**When asked: What would you tell other schools about your experience with the program and/or interaction with the artist?**

**Here's what teachers have to say about David Novak, A Telling Experience:**

**Great Storyteller He was engaging and so fun to watch**

**I would recommend this artist wholeheartedly.**

**He is very positive and professional. He did a great job with a large crowd but I bet it would be even better in a smaller setting.**

**He was very nice and did a great job.**

**He's a good storyteller.**

The artist is simple but effective, sharing traditions from a variety of cultures.

Kept the students attention. Great presence on stage with the students.

Very interactive and entertaining. Strongly relates to the kids with a good command of 50+ students

**The storyteller was highly engaging and had the students complete attention and wonder.**

**I would recommend they have Mr. Novak to their school.**

**Engaging and entertaining**

**Great. Lively. Funny. Fun.**



**Highly recommend. Very engaging storyteller, pleasant to work with and flexible with programming**

**It was a fun program!**

**Very professional and great storyteller!**

**He was very entertaining.**

***It was a wonderful program!***

**Very easy to work with. Adapts program to different age groups very carefully. Willing to cater to specific needs upon request.**

**Mr. Novak was very easy to work with and a very personable gentleman. Even after just a brief conversation with me, he was able to take some of the things we talked about and work them into his presentation.**



***David enchants students at Western Academy of Beijing.***