

## John Kirk

Here are a few examples of the stories John tells to Kindergarten, Grade 5, and Grade 12 students. We've selected these grade levels at random to highlight the wide range of stories he tailors to suit different ages and English levels. These examples are just a small sample of the many stories he brings to the school.

**For K5**, John takes familiar stories and transforms them into exciting adventures that captivate young students. As one parent shared, "*John managed to take a story we've read 1000 times and turn it into a new and exciting adventure for my son and 20 of his friends.*" *The Enormous Crocodile* is always a hit, and when he tells *The Gingerbread Man* or *The Three Little Pigs*, it's often hard to tell who the storyteller is, as some children eagerly say the words before he does. He also introduces lesser-known traditional tales from around the world, adapted for school audiences. His interactive storytelling, with call-and-response and actions, keeps students fully engaged, and the stories are complemented with songs to add an extra layer of fun.

**For Grade 5**, John shares a dynamic range of stories from different cultures that engage students with themes of love, justice, friendship, and loyalty. For instance, in *As Much as Salt*, a King learns just how much his daughter loves him, and in *The Archer and the Ten Suns*, an archer in ancient China helps the Emperor and his people. Meanwhile, in *The Tree That Liked to Tickle*, from Myanmar, the Old Man of the Forest rewards the good and punishes the bad, highlighting the values of justice and wisdom. Throughout these stories, students are encouraged to participate actively by wearing hats and helping tell the tale. John's use of interactive storytelling keeps the children engaged, making each session not only fun but meaningful.

**For Grade 12**, John offers a range of engaging sessions that explore history, literature, and creative expression:

- **Napoleon and the Turk**

- Students uncover one of history's greatest hoaxes, exploring themes of trickery and invention.
- Opportunities for participation as students help bring the story to life.

- **Exploring Shakespeare**

- A deep dive into *Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry V*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, making Shakespeare's works accessible and relevant.
- Students analyze universal themes of love, power, and conflict, while learning how Shakespeare's language continues to resonate today.
- Interactive elements, including reenacting scenes like the famous Montague-Capulet fight.

- **What Nonsense!**

- This session explores the wonderful worlds of nonsense poets Lewis Carroll, Edward Lear, and Spike Milligan.
- Students dive into questions like: *Where is the Tulgey Wood? How can cows go “bong”? And what exactly is a “runcible spoon”?*
- These playful and absurd ideas challenge students to think creatively about language and meaning.
- The session encourages students to create their own nonsense poems, experimenting with language and imagination to push the boundaries of what words can do.