

Sharing Learning Stories
Wisconsin Weather Stories

10/31/2012

- Used three lenses to analyze stories
 - scientific analysis, folkloric, and artistic analysis
- Brought in two undergrads in weather and three in folkloric
- Wanted to get across making observation of the world around us is important to both field. Both are grounded in observations.
- Use of the term "folklore" to equal false was not ever a part of this
- One single story kicked this off
 - tradition bearer - Harold Hettrick - retired DNR warden who was a life long duck hunter and a good storyteller.
 - Ruth Olson identified him originally and through the course of the festival these interviews were recorded.
 - One of his stories was a significant storm that happened in the region
 - Search for:
 - cultural
 - science
 - artistic
 - Marshlands - his recreational and practical knowledge of the land transforms his story. part of that local culture.
 - Certain jargon that is unique to this cultural group, "river rat" for example
 - Connection between past and present "there were lots of hunters back then" creates a moving evaluation of the culture. Or "his skiff is like mine by wood" to indicate that he still participates.
 - Clothing, lack of easy communication, and other details of the time are weaved into the description of the time.
 - Aesthetic value - generic description, leads into a specific moment in time and continue to develop that specific moment in time. Moving from the bigger picture to the precise picture of that moment in time.
 - He also weaves in other people's stories and approaching it from a community perspective as this was a community event.
 - Weather, science part, description of how nasty it is because you can't even get the ships out on the Mississippi river. How they describe the events and how they
 - Cold fronts do have this behavior of a warm front that creates nice weather and then boom the cold weather move in.
 - Armistice Day Storm -
 - Armistice Day was the Veterans Day at the time.
 - Tacoma Narrow Bridge - this storm takes down that bridge.
 - 11/10/1975 - Edmund Fitzgerald form. Almost the same storm.
 - Forecasting at the time was incorrect, which caused the Edmund Fitzgerald to change it's course which was a very poor decision.
 - 152 people killed in this storm.
 - Destroyed the apple orchards in Iowa and Mrs. Roosevelt was stuck in the storm.
 - in '98, another storm just like this blew through. But forecasting

- allowed proper prediction and no one died.
 - Sandy is so unique and nothing has happened like that before
 - Imagine if that had happened in 1940. No prediction
 - Death toll is less than Katrina because forecasting has continued to improve over the past five years.
- Using the story with Teachers
 - Took this iconic core story and the undergrad folklorists analyzed the story from the three angles and then created very deep lessons around that with supporting materials.
 - Then teachers recruited around the state to use it. Planned and trained these teacher and performed field testing with this material and then created their own project so that it made sense to their own situations.
 - Interview training with one of the Milwaukee teachers, who himself has a great storytelling ability
- Like to emphasize about interviewing
 - Approach it as a conversation. A listening opportunity as much as an asking opportunity.
 - Caught in Hurricane Aaron is a good example of this
 - The mother is really responding to the questions and you can see the student is listening as the questions reflect the answer.
 - Also continuing to relate the personal experience with the science.
 - So often in interviewing, try to draw out the story because they offer so much content.
- Storytelling and Teaching
 - Value of students telling their stories
 - Found this teaching about lightening. With first lecture, thoroughly prepared to do an exciting lightening lecture but kept losing the audience. Finally asked "who's been hit by lightening" and that brought the group together.
 - took their stories and listed the events retold by the class and then retracked to say that "now we're going to explain everything that just happened.
- Website
 - Has many great resources. If you have any questions, they just email them.
- Discussing good weather stories
 - Usually the unusual or severe
 - N shaped rainbow - unusual report comes in asking for what that is and he's finding it hard to believe. Finally she send a rainbow and he does what he can to find out more.
 - Has to happen over a lake
 - Sundog
 - Crystals that you hang in your window is a sundog. Sun has to be high and made of certain ice crystal
 - Called so because they faithfully follow their master
 - Moon halo was last night, because Sandy was a thin ice cloud.
 - Weather Sayings
 - They are able to be explained with the way the weather behaves, to an extent