

THE STORY SHARING GAME

Play With Friends, Family, Co-Workers, Groups & Classes, Or To Help Strangers Become Familiar. Great For Intergenerational Play ! (Teens 14yrs and older)

HOW TO PLAY

Playing Time: (4) Players – (30) Minutes / Up To Ten Players – (1) Hour
Group Formation: Circle

STEP #1: CHOOSE THE 'INSTIGATING' STORY

Each Player Is Given A Copy Of The Story. Before playing the Game one Player acts as facilitator and chooses a random 'instigating' or 'inciting' story to inspire Players to remember little stories from their own lives. It can be a short true story (*memoir*), or a short story, or even a monologue from a film. Any story that speaks to what it is to be human, in ordinary ways or in big ways. (*Selected story should be one page or less.*) Here's a few free online short story collections:

- True 100-word stories: www.rd.com/article/100-word-stories/
- 50-word stories: <https://fiftywordstories.com/tag/twist/>
- 100-word stories: <https://100wordstory.org/>
- Teen memoirs: www.teenink.com/nonfiction/memoir
- Adults and Teens: <https://www.sixwordmemoirs.com/> (Have each participant repeat the 6 Word Memoir)

STEP #2: READ ALOUD THE STORY & COMMENT

- **Each Player Takes A TURN READING A LINE** from the instigating Story. If the Story is very short you can read through it twice, so every Player has a chance to read a line aloud. (*This simple exercise warms everyone up – hearing their own voice; makes everyone listen more closely to the story as they wait their turn reading; and starts to build cohesion and supportiveness among the Players.*)
- **Each Player Makes ONE COMMENT** About The Story. Whatever they want to say, including sharing how something similar happened to them. Other Players can make supportive remarks, but don't start a discussion. Move on for the next Player's comment.
- **Each Player Shares ONE LINE** About What They Think The Story Is About. (*Theme, message, or lesson learned.*)

STEP #3: PLAN HOW TO TELL YOUR STORY & THEN SHARE IT

- **Each Player Thinks Of A Story From Their Past.** To begin, the facilitator asks each Player to share only two things: **1) HOW OLD WERE THEY ?** (*Ok if they guess what age they were.*) **2) WHERE DID IT HAPPEN ?** (*City / state / country + physical location, i.e. a bedroom, on the football field, at a checkout register, etc.*)
- **Players Given 3 Minutes To Silently Plan How They Will Tell Their Stories.** Players are encouraged to include visual descriptions of the people and setting, and to become more vivid StoryTellers by using their voice and gestures as well as words.
- **Players Share Their Real Life Stories.** After a Story is shared other Players make **ONE COMMENT** about the story. Then the next Player tells their Story followed by a round of comments, until all the Players have shared their stories.

STEP #4: ANSWER THE (10) QUESTIONS

Review 'Story Sharing Game's (10) QUESTIONS': A Question is read aloud and then each Player indicates which Player's story best answered the question for them.

Your Story
Surprised Me.
Made Me Laugh.



THE STORY SHARING GAME (10) QUESTIONS

*After Players Share Stories,
They Answer These Questions To Reveal
The Different Ways Stories Move Us !*

A Question Is Read Aloud, And Each Player Indicates Which Player's Story – Other Than Their Own – Best Answers The Question ? How ?

THE (10) QUESTIONS

1. Whose Story surprised you the most ?
2. Which StoryTeller best used their voice and body when telling their Story to pull you in / entertain ?
3. Which Story made you think of one of your own memories ?
4. Who included the most interesting details about their story's time period, setting, props, and wardrobe ? *(YOU COULD SEE THEIR STORY !)*
5. Who described characters you can most easily imagine as people ? *(If the story includes people you know, imagine only knowing them as described in story – did the storyteller create a vivid impression of them?).*
6. Who amused or charmed you most or made you laugh ?
7. Who told the most emotional / touching Story ?
8. Who had the best line said by a character, or the best description of something --- that you still remember clearly ?
9. Which Story can you imagine most as a short film ?
10. Which Story left you with the most questions ?
Which was the most intriguing Story – leaving you wondering what happened before or after the time covered in the Story ?

THE STORY SHARING GAME

SAMPLES OF 'INSTIGATING' OR 'INCITING' STORIES TO START THE GAME.

Each story has been broken up by lines to emphasis that each Player reads one sentence.

'A VERY SPECIAL FINISH'

- My son, Mark, volunteered to help Cherie, a young runner at a local Special Olympics.
- Cherie was happy and enthusiastic.
- Mark encouraged her, kept her calm, and helped her know when it was time to line up for her race.
- When the starting pistol sounded, she took off like a lightning bolt, leaving her fellow racers behind.
- As she neared the finish line, she stopped, turned around and motioned for the other runners to hurry.
- She waited for them so they could all cross the finish line together.

Submitted by Debra Holley, American Fork, Utah

From the Reader's Digest 'True 100-Word Stories': www.rd.com/article/100-word-stories/

'TRUTH IN ADVERTISING'

- In front of the grocery store, a bubbly Girl Scout stood beside a table full of cookies.
- "Please buy some cookies from me!" she begged.
- "How much are they?" I asked.
- "They're \$5 a box, except these two kinds over here.
- They're \$6 a box."
- Figuring there must be something special about the two \$6 boxes, I asked why it was.
- "Well, this box is gluten-free," the little girl replied.
- "What about the other box?"
- She beamed, "Oh, those are overpriced!"

Submitted by Kathryn Thayer, Spokane, Washington. From www.rd.com/article/100-word-stories/

'SUMMER 1974'

- We didn't talk that summer.
- My father drowned out the silence with the news: Nixon, war, the World Series.
- My mother filled the void with the sounds of Duke Ellington and Billie Holiday on the record player.
- My parents moved around me like repelling magnets.
- At the peak of a heat wave in July, they broke the silence with her mouth and his fist.
- Mittens our cat got under his feet, and he kicked her.
- Blood splattered the wall.
- The Dodgers lost the World Series.
- I filled my silence with episodes of *Happy Days* and lying in the grass, imagining I was Richie.

Submitted by Riley Ann, a writer of prose, poetry, and songs.

From: www.100wordstory.org/photo-story-1974