



# DISTRICT ONE StoryMasters

## Stories at The StoryMasters Club's Program

### Stories on February 11, 2024

Manny Fernandez	I'm just a gold miner looking for gold in crap
Jill Vanderweit	I'd Kill for Candy
Hiba Hamdan	Fair's Fair
Elaine Gale	I Blew It



Our next program is Sunday, March 10, 2023 @ 3-5pm. [Please RSVP](#) and join us!  
(Members do not need to RSVP)

### STORYTELLING STUB

## 4 Pillars of P

Storytelling is deceptively simple. Its structure is formulaic: a story has a beginning, a middle and an end. The beginning depicts the ordinary, everyday situation; the middle introduces an inciting incident. This incident triggers conflict, the heart of the story. Every good story needs conflict, otherwise you only have a stagnant tale that doesn't move or interest its audience. The conflict, the struggle, brings us to a resolution, aka the end. And we all know that All's well that ends well! Unless it doesn't....

Stories depend on 4 pillars – the 4 Ps: People, Place, Purpose, and Plot.

The purpose is the reason for writing the story, basically the meaning of the story; the plot is the sequence of events or essentially what happens in the story. These 2 pillars – purpose and plot—are baked into the story structure.

But the first 2 pillars—people and place—are opportunities to polish your writing and enthrall your audience. How to do that?

Incorporate sensory language!

Your writing—or telling—should evoke mental images or sensations to the audience. You can do this by using rich, descriptive language that appeals to the 5 senses and thereby transports your audience into the scene. Evoking sensuous imagery engages your listener; not doing so can leave your audience bored and disinterested—which may lead to them to stop listening or reading altogether.

If you don't use good descriptive writing, you are at risk of losing your reader because they can't get a clear understanding of the people or places. This is why it's imperative you incorporate vivid sensory details.

What is this? Sensory words describe how we see the world through our senses: sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch. It's recommended that you incorporate 3 of the 5 senses while choosing words to describe your scene.

Think about this example.

*The ice cream was very cold.*

That's a sentence, but it lacks interest and connection. But what about this:

*The minty green ice cream was so cold, I felt a stabbing pain behind my right eye.*

So much more vivid, dramatic, and interesting, no? We understand so much more about the tone and purpose of the story when sensory language is used.

For example, that 2nd sentence could have been:

*The delicious, minty ice cream was so wonderfully cold, I felt a chill that felt lovely against the blisteringly hot day.*

Now the narrators seem like 2 different people, and the tone and purpose of their stories will take different paths. There is so much that can be deduced from the different descriptions.

Never forget that while you are storytelling, you are painting a picture, presenting your unique vision to the world. Make it richer and—we hope—unforgettable with sensory language.

I want to leave you with a pet peeve. While I was writing this article, I started to write:

“When sensory language is employed...”

But I stopped and changed the words to

“When sensory language is used...”

WHY? Because employed sounded pompous and out of place.

PLEASE, while storytelling, don't use the biggest, most flowery, or esoteric words you know or find on powerthesaurus.com! Your listener will get lost and disconnect from your story while they've paused to figure out your pretentious word salad. Remember, you are telling a story, not flaunting your vocabulary. Don't ruin the effect by appearing to be supercilious. Just take it easy and have fun!



*Anna Ziss spent over twenty years sharpening her imagination as an award-winning Copywriter for Barbie Collector at Mattel and as a Concept Innovator, conjuring up new product ideas for The Franklin Mint. A native New Jerseyite, she studied economics and music at Connecticut College and photography at School of Visual Arts and Art Institute of Philadelphia, little of which she now uses or remembers. Anna currently lives in Los Angeles where she dreams of receiving her Academy Award for Original Screenplay, seeing her name on the New York Times Best Seller List, and creating art.*

## STORYMASTERS BOOK

### The Storytelling Bistro

Fifteen diverse StoryMasters offer true personal stories, fanciful fiction, poems, and thoughts in this captivating collection of short works, perfectly sized for tossing into your bag to read at the beach, park, waiting in a business lobby, or enjoying a few quiet moments at home. We hope you enjoy these stories as much as we do!

Copies are available on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/7XPoTcT>



**UPCOMING STORYTELLING EVENTS**

Many enchanting storytelling events keep coming up. Check them out on [our event page!](#)

**Mar 12 It's Funny Now!**

<https://itsfunnynowstorytelling.com/>

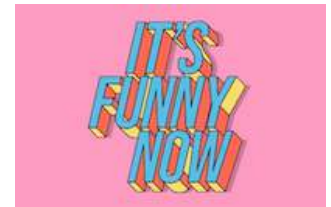
8:00 PM PT

Category: Storytelling Concert

Location: The Crow

Cost: \$20

Stories you're glad didn't happen to you! Hosted by StoryMasters' friend, **Frank Traynor**.



**Mar 16 San Diego Storytelling Festival**

<https://miyo.net/event/san-diego-storytelling-festival-2024/>

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM PT

Category: Storytelling Concert

Location: Coronado Public Library in San Diego

Cost: Free

The Storytellers of San Diego return to Coronado Public Library for a daylong celebration of all things storytelling. There's a reason why storytelling has been around for much longer than the written word. **Miyo Yamauchi** will offer a storytelling workshop.



**Mar 16 Strong Words**

<https://strongwordslive.com/>

7:30 PM PT

Category: Storytelling Concert

Location: St. Francis Center

Cost: \$10

An intimate evening of storytelling, music and art at a beautiful courtyard in Atwater Village hosted by **Larry Dean Harris**.



**Mar 29 The NDA Show**

<https://jetbook.co/e/thendashowfwgp>

8:00 PM PT

Category: Storytelling Concert

Location: The Crow

Cost: \$20

A night of comedy about the nightmares and miracles that can happen while working in film and tv production produced by **Taylor Rockwell**.



**Apr 2 Adventures of the Green Housewife**

<https://ebellofla.org/event/vicki-juditz-on-adventures-of-the-green-housewife/>

7:00 PM PT

Category: Solo show

Location: The Ebell of LA

Cost: \$20

What's so funny about an environmentally obsessed housewife? You are about to discover eco-hilarity! This series of short performances weaves humorous storytelling with StoryMasters' friend, **Vicki Juditz**.



**Apr 6 Influences**

8:00 PM PT

Category: Solo Show

Location: Fanatic Salon Theater

Cost: \$15

When nothing goes right, go left. Join us for an electrifying solo performance by the remarkable **Mattie Singleton**, a dear friend of StoryMasters. Call (310) 622-2046 for reservation.



*Disclaimer: Events are posted as a service to our members, friends and the storytelling community. Posting is not an endorsement.*

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

# What Is Reality?

Did anyone catch the scoop on Sora (Sora means the sky in Japanese)? It's this AI wizardry that crafts lifelike and fantastical scenes straight from text commands. Pretty mind-blowing stuff they're pulling off. But, here's the kicker: amid the awe, there's a bit of a cultural oopsie. Take a peek at [their website](#), and you'll spot the top image featuring an Asian girl strolling down the street. At first glance, it's all sunshine and rainbows, but dive deeper into the AI-generated content, and you'll notice something's off about the hands. (Honestly, I've yet to come across an AI-rendered hand that looks anything close to right.) And if you're Asian or know Asian languages, those background signs? Totally butchered.



Oh, you want to hear more? Let's dive into Google's AI, Gemini. Someone requested it to generate images of either a pope or a Viking. Can you believe what happened next? Gemini produced individuals of color—no white representation whatsoever. Quite surprising, isn't it? I get that they aimed for diversity, but it seems they missed the mark on reality.

Popes and Vikings are obvious targets for misinformation, but what about when it's something obscure, something nobody can verify? Does it then become our new reality? Will it eventually rewrite our history books?

While it frustrates me that AI consistently fails to render hands correctly, there's a silver lining: it provides a sense of comfort, reassuring me that what I'm seeing isn't real.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Innovating Inclusivity: The Story of Slide Teller

Booya! Talk about a double whammy of success! My audio descriptor app, "[Slide Teller](#)," just clinched not one, but two prestigious awards: the International Design Award and the coveted Webby's Anthem Award. Winning these was like discovering buried treasure—both a thrilling surprise and a humbling testament to the power of community support.

Ever heard the phrase, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together"? It's more than just a cliché; it encapsulates a fundamental truth about the power of collaboration.

Back in 2022, when I learned that the visually impaired comic, Joseph Adams, was coming to my solo show, my brain went into overdrive. What could I do to make his experience extra special? Maybe a heartfelt thank-you note in braille? I reached out to a couple of braille companies, only to realize that the price tag was way beyond my budget. Should I tackle it myself? But let's be real here—I barely have time to learn the intricacies of braille, let alone gather the right tools and actually write it out. And who on earth would I ask to proofread it? Joseph himself? Absolutely preposterous!

So, I decided to ditch the braille idea altogether and turned to the one person who's always got ingenious solutions up his sleeve—none other than [Anthony Phills](#), aka Visionary, aka Creator, aka AI Jedi. Upon hearing my plight, he didn't miss a beat. "How about crafting a digital playbill with audio descriptors?" he suggested. And just like that, [the first-ever AI playbill was born](#). The following year, Joseph and our other friends returned to catch my solo show. As we chatted post-performance, Joseph's remark grabbed my attention: "I couldn't tell if the slides were different this time around because, well, I can't see them." Now, while my show isn't slide-centric, visuals undoubtedly add comedic depth. This prompted us to ponder: how can we enhance Joseph's experience? Is it even possible? Once again, Anthony and I collaborated, brainstorming a solution. Soon, the brainchild known as "Slide Teller" (originally dubbed "Live Slides") was born. Recognizing that audio took center stage in this project, we enlisted the talents of the brilliant sound engineer, [Navid Lancaster](#), to bolster our team. And as we delved deeper into development, we were fortunate to have the insights of the Blind Master, L.A. Williams III, who served as both an advisor and a tester.

Since the brainstorming session and some sleepless nights, we successfully launched the Slide Teller app on the Apple Store within a remarkably short span, just in time for my solo performance in Vancouver, Canada..

Reflecting on this journey, I'm struck by how a simple thank-you note has evolved into a testament to our collective achievements. None of this would have been possible without the support of our community, for which propelled us even further toward our objectives.

— Miyo Yamauchi

