

Madison Public Library's

Storytime Starters

Way out West! (Spring 2019)

A multicultural note about this storytime kit:

In making a storytime about the wild west, I realized really how easy it would be to fall into stereotypes, especially regarding Native American and Mexican culture. Many of the picture books that came up in searches had questionable representations of those groups, or were folktales by outsiders rarely sourced. However, So! I tried to do due diligence and choose books that would appropriately represent the diverse history and culture of the Southwest, in voices of the peoples who call it home. As well as include lots of fun, and silly books.

If you want – here is a little mini intro you can share with audiences before starting storytime.

When I think of the Wild West – I think of states like Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Wyoming. But those states weren't always called that. The part of America we think of as the Wild West, has been the home of Native American tribes for centuries including the Lakota, Navajo, Hopi and many other tribes, long before American Cowboys roamed the ranges. It was also once a part of a Spanish territory, and then Mexico, where the original cowboys were called Vaqueros. This means a rich collection of stories about the West exists in English, Spanish, and Native Languages.

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Books for Toddlers:

Hug me by Simona Ciraola, © 2014. (++ Ciraola)
Listen to the desert – Oye al desierto by Pat Mora, © 1994 (NATURE, Mora)
Desert song by Tony Johnston, © 2000 (Nature, Johnston)
Cowboy baby by Sue Heap, © 1998 (FAVORITES, Heap)
Let's Sing a lullaby with the brave cowboy by Jan Thomas, © 2012 (FAVORITES, Thomas)
Clip-Clop by Nicola Smee, © 2006 (FAVORITES, Smee)
Cowboy & Octopus by Jon Scieszka, © 2007 (CPC Scieszka)
Little Wolf's First Howling by Laura McGee Kvasnosky & Kate Harvey McGee, © 2017 (FAVORITES, Kvasnosky)

Books for Preschoolers:

We Found a Hat by John Klassen, © 2016. (FAVORITES, Klassen)
The desert is my mother – El desierto es mi madre by Pat Mora, © 1994. (+811 Mora)
When Otis courted Mama by Kathi Appelt, © 2015. (GROWING, Appelt)
Buster goes to cowboy camp by Denise Fleming, © 2008. (FAVORITES, Fleming)
Are you a horse? by Andy Rash, © 2009 (STORIES, Rash)
Rodeo Red by Maripat Perkins, © 2015 (FAVORITES, Perkins)
Coyote: a trickster tale by Gerald McDermott, © 1994 (++McDermott)
Coyote: Un Cuento Folklorico by Gerald McDermott, © 1994 (398.2097...)
Brave wolf and the thunderbird by Joe Medicine Crow, © 1998 (Folk, Medicine)
Real Cowboys by Kate Hoefler, © 2016 (FAVORITES, Hoefler)

School-Age Extension:

Borreguita and the Coyote by Verna Aadrema © 1991 (Folk, Aadrema)
Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote by Duncan Tontuih © 2013 (Picturebook Mitchell, Tonatiuh)

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Fingerplays & Songs :

Five Little Black Flies

(Flies included, use with lizard puppet)

Five little black flies flying 'round the
cactus

Teasing Mr. Lizard, saying, "You can't
catch us!"

Then came the Lizard, being oh so sly
And SLUUUURP!! He ate one tasty little
fly! (*and so on, counting down*)

(From: [Literary Hoots](#))

Ten Little Ponies

(a baby bouncing rhyme)

Ten little ponies came to town

Five were black

And five were brown

They galloped up (lift arms up)

and they galloped down (lower arms)

And they galloped right back out of town

Have you ever seen a lizard?

(Tune: *Have you ever seen a lassie*, great to
practice colors in English and Spanish)

Have you ever seen a lizard, a lizard, a
lizard?

Have you ever seen a lizard all dressed up
in Green? (Verde)

With Green eyes, and Green nose,
And Green legs and Green toes.

Have you ever seen a lizard all dressed up
in Green?

...all dressed up in Red? (Rojo)

...all dressed up in White? (Blanco)

...all dressed up in Blue? (Azul)

(From [Literary Hoots](#))

Cowpoke Charade

(By Shelly Lane)

Put on my hat (*Pretend to put hat on*)

And put on my vest (*Pretend to put vest on*)

Buckle my belt (*Pretend to buckle belt*)

So I look my best.

Ride my pony (*Pretend to ride a pony*)

Rope my steer (*Pretend to twirl a lasso*)

Sleep in my bunk, (*Pretend to sleep*)

When night is near.

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Fingerplay: Where is my Rabbit?

¿Dónde está mi conejo? (*hands behind your back*)

Nadie puede ver. (*shake your head*)

Creo que mi conejo se esconde de mí. (*look over your shoulder*)

Aquí está mi conejo. (*hold up one thumb*)

Él ha encontrado un amigo. (*hold up your other thumb*)

Mira todos los demás. (*raise all fingers*)

¡Ahora hay diez! (*wiggle your fingers*)

Fingerplay: Here is a Tortoise

Here is a tortoise (*make fist*)

He lives in a shell.

He likes his home

Very well.

When he gets hungry (*stick out thumb and wiggle*)

He comes out to eat.

Then he goes back into (*tuck thumb back in fist*)

His house to sleep.

Here is my tortoise

(Version in Spanish)

Aquí está una tortuga

Él vive en una concha.

Él gusta su casa muchísimo

Cuando él tiene hambre,

Él venga sale a comer

Después, él se regresa

A su casa a dormir.

Buenas Noches, Tortuga!

10 Little Cowboys

Ten cowboys and girls (hold up 10 fingers)

Standing in a row-

When they see the foreman

They bow just so- (bend fingers down)

They ride to the left (hands move left)

And they ride to the right (move hands to right)

And then they shut their eyes

And sleep all night. (put cheek on hands)

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Cowpolk Bedtime (traditional)

This little cowpolk is going to bed (point to self)

Down on my hat I lays my head (rest head on hands)

I rap myself up in my bedroll tight (wrap arms around body)

And this is the way I sleep all night.

Morning comes, I open my eyes (raise head, eyes open wide)

Off with a toss the bedroll flies (fling arms wide)

Soon I'm is up and dressed and away (jump up)

Ready to ride on the range all day. (clap hands, gallop away)

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STAFF ONLY

Big Book:

Colors in the Desert

Flannel Boards:

5 little cactuses

Counting tumbleweeds

The rattle snake, the mouse, and the coyote

5 galloping horses

Have you seen a lizard?

Prop Stories:

5 little black flies

Bandana Story (you can use scarves)

Movies:

Stick and Stone (that's deserty right?)

What do you do with a tail like this? (includes some awesome desert animals like an anteater, gecko, and horned lizard!)

App:

Stamps:

Horse (MAD), Armadillo (HPB)

Craft:

Make a cowboy hat on the stick - to wear around or pose with.

Create a desert scene – have the kids draw cactuses or desert animals, cover portions with a glue stick and shake sand over the picture for texture. Include paper to cut out cactuses or die cuts on hand to include in the pictures.



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Do you have paper towel rolls or dowel rods?? Make a very short horse on a stick with a paper bags or the included template. Or make a paper bag puppet of a horse!



Extra modeling clay lying around or play dough? Create cactuses with clay and toothpicks.



Early Learning Tip:

Read about animals! Books about animals will introduce your child to many familiar or unfamiliar animals. Point out animals in your child's world to help develop their vocabulary.

Or

Listen to Every Language! Your preschooler can build good speaking and listening skills and habits when they listen and talk to people who are fluent in any language.

Or

Let Them Explain! Let your child tell you what they know about a book. This helps develop their narrative skills and encourages enthusiasm for reading.

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A Bandana Story (use scarves for the kids to do the actions with you!) -

Once upon a time there was a cowboy, or Vaquero (Ba-kk-er-o) in Spanish, named Little Jesse "Rojo" Waddie. He was called that because he always wore a red (Rojo) bandana when he was on a cattle drive. He could tie it on his head to protect him from the sun. (Put your bandana on your head)

Or tied across his face. This protected him from the dust that all the cows kicked up on hot, dry days (demonstrate)

Little Rojo often went on long drives when there was no time to stop and eat lunch. He would often wrap up his lunch from the chuck wagon in his red bandana and eat on his horse. (gather the corners of the bandana to demonstrate a punch)

On hot summer days on the trail, Little Rojo would stop by the creek. He would soak his bandana and wipe his face with it to cool himself off. Then he would wrap it around his neck to cool off his whole body. (tie your scarf around your neck)

In the winter the range turned cold, Little Rojo used his bandana for a handkerchief. (dramatically blow your nose with your bandana)

He knew all about using resources wisely. Instead of paper towels, he would dry his hands with his bandana. He used it instead of a napkin, and he used it as a washrag to clean his dishes.

One day, Little Rojo was on his way back to the ranch when he stopped to pick some flowers for his sweetheart, his horse Sunset. But he accidentally pricked his finger on the purple thistle! Never fear, he could use his bandana as a bandage. (model wrapping your finger in it)

He rinsed his bandana out in the stream and wrapped the flowers up in his damp bandana to keep them fresh.

Sunset was very excited to get the flowers! She ate them all right away, which Little Rojo sat down in the grass to eat his lunch, using his bandana for his tablecloth, dreaming of his next adventure (spread the bandana on your lap.)

(Revised from a traditional Girls Scout story that shows how useful bandanas are. And of course cowboys use bandanas... but also because the girl scout story was a super lame version of Red Riding hood where she marries the woodsman. Blah.)