

## The grade 3 storytellers

When you walk into the grade 3 *Patang* classroom in DPS, you will see no behaviour management problems, no sleepy faces, and no chaos. What you will see is a group of young, eager students, engaging in the lesson and participating actively.

The students always speak in English when having a conversation with a teacher or among each other. Radhika Ma'am, their *Patang* teacher believed that they could be pushed further to speak confidently in front of an audience. She felt that many students in the class were capable of public speaking, but got nervous and underestimated their ability.

To overcome this challenge, she decided to have a two-day storytelling activity in the class. It was conducted by the students. It was the first time she was trying this activity in the class, and she didn't want it to be competitive, as that would have discouraged some children.



For the activity, she divided the children in two groups for the next two days. Each child had to learn a short story and retell it to the rest of the class. This story could be one that they had heard from a friend, their parents, their siblings, or it could be a story they found on the Internet. The students also had the option of creating their own short story. The children felt excited to hear the idea after she introduced it to them.

Radhika Ma'am requested one of team members, Manyata, to sit and listen to stories the children were presenting. This made the students even more enthusiastic as they felt that they had a "real" audience. She observed the storytellers at work on both days.



The students followed a specific format. First, they introduced themselves to the rest of the group. Then, they told everyone the title of the story, and after that they started narrating their story. After each child had read his/her story, Radhika Ma'am, asked a question about the story. This made the child feel special, and that they were

being listened to. She also gave the whole group feedback at the end of the day. This helped the children



understand what they did well, and where they could improve. She has also promised them that they will have another story telling activity and a poem reciting activity over the next few months. All the children are looking forward to it.

Each and every student in the class participated enthusiastically. Some students had created their own stories, some had researched on the Internet, and one child had translated a story he had read in a hindi book. Almost every child's story had a moral, and each child told his/her story in English.

*“This was a great initiative taken by Radhika Ma’am to promote public speaking in a fun way. All the children loved the activity and there was immense joy in the classroom over those 2 days. I am happy I got to witness it!”*

*– Manyata*

It was an excellent initiative to build confidence in the children. The students enjoyed the activity and are looking forward to the next one. The activity helped build confidence in speaking, and it also acted as an effective way to build a habit of active listening in the children.