

# Tips for memorizing stories

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- *Start with the intent to memorize the script, word for word. It takes energy to figure out which words you're going to use, which to leave out, and which to change; that energy is best saved for later, after you know the story. Of course, the final goal is not to recite the script. But departing from the script and making the telling your own is much easier and more rewarding when you know every word of it.*
- *It is not a good idea to start Sunday night to memorize the story you want to present Monday morning. Memory is more reliable if it's accumulated a little at a time. Six sessions of ten minutes each, spread over six days, will result in much stronger learning than one solid hour, besides being easier to fit into your schedule. Do some memorizing on the fly - whilst sitting at the traffic lights, whilst going for a walk, in the shower.*
- *Work on short segments of a story at a time. Godly Play stories are well organised for memorizing, as the paragraphs are usually short and punctuated by movements of the objects. With a longer story, group several paragraphs into a section. Sometimes, especially with longer stories, it helps to memorize backwards - the last paragraph or section first, then the next to last, and so on. Using this way of memorizing helps you avoid the problem of knowing the first parts thoroughly - because you've practised the most - and having memory lapses toward the end.*
- *Use the materials or objects as memory aids. After all, that's what they were for the ancient storytellers.*
- *Memory work tends to snowball, so try not to get discouraged if your first attempt seems fruitless. The first time I work on a story I retain very little, but with each session more sticks with me, and the more I learn the easier it becomes to add the rest. If a memory lapse does occur, it isn't the end of the world - not even the end of the story.*