

**Title of Session:** The Art of Storytelling - Paul Reynolds FableVision

**Moderator:** BJ Berquist

**Guest Speaker:** Paul Reynolds

**Title of File:** 20060510storytellingFablevision

**Date:** May 10, 2006

Room: The Art of Storytelling Group

**PaulR** joined the room.

**BjB** . o O ( whew! )

**BjB:** Hi, Paul!

**PaulR:** Hi there!

**PaulR:** Sorry for the delay.

**BjB:** not a problem

**BjB** . o O ( although another couple minutes and I would have had the big one )

**PaulR:** I was in another class

**BjB** nods. I know how busy you are.

**PaulR:** so much to do - so little time. : )

**BjB:** We really appreciate you taking time to join us tonight

**PaulR:** But having lots of fun

**DavidWe:** That's good

**PaulR:** And very pleased to be invited tonight

**BjB** smiles...then let the party begin!

**PaulR** releases the confetti

**BjB:** Welcome, everyone to tonight's Art of Storytelling discussion

**BjB:** we have a very special guest with us...Paul Reynolds. He will share some of his experiences with story and how he uses story

**BjB:** We usually start all the discussions with introductions.

**BjB:** Can you please let Paul know who his audience is?

**PaulR:** That would be great.

**BjB:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and helpdesk for Tapped in

**PaulR:** We've done some fun work in PA

**FredK:** I am trying to get digital storytelling into the agenda for literacy students in Pushmataha County OK

**SusanR:** K to 8 Occasional Teacher from Ontario, Canada and facilitator of the K to 3+ Great Resources here at TI

**DavidWe:** I help math teachers learn more about technology. I'm one of the HelpDesk volunteers. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

**PaulR:** I was born just outside of Toronto Susan.

**PaulR:** Hello to my fellow Canadian. :)

**LauraWD:** I am a partner in a multimedia storytelling company

**PaulR:** Wow - neat range

**PaulR:** Who is your audience Laura?

**PaulR:** David - we have a special fondness for Math teachers

**DavidWe** smiles

**PaulR:** (I'll explain in a bit)

**DavidWe:** Who is "We", Paul?

**PaulR:** My twin brother Peter

**LauraWD:** we purchased August House Publishing last year and we are building the live event and tv/movie performance aspects. Also building animation. Very focused on children.

**DavidWe** nods

**PaulR:** and my company FableVision

**PaulR:** What is the name of your company Laura?

**LauraWD:** August House, Inc.

**PaulR:** ah

**LauraWD:** we kept the name

**PaulR:** August House looks very much like our cup of tea

**DavidWe** smiles

**LauraWD:** you just looked at the web site!

**PaulR:** yup

**DavidWe:** You know Tom Snyder, Paul?

**PaulR:** Love technology. : )

**DavidWe** smiles

**PaulR:** Yes -

**LauraWD:** it has so many affordances

**DavidWe** . o O ( Swarthmore College - class of '72 )

**PaulR:** Peter worked with Tom in the earliest days of TSP

**DavidWe** nods

**PaulR:** Tom hired Peter in 1982

**DavidWe** smiles

**PaulR:** and Peter spent 13 years there

**DavidWe:** cool

**DavidWe** has heard Tom Snyder play guitar

**PaulR:** as VP/Creative Director

**PaulR** thinks Tom looked like John Lennon

**DavidWe** smiles

**PaulR:** Tom told Peter:

**PaulR:** I don't know what I want you to do

**PaulR:** yet

**PaulR:** so go into Harvard Square

**PaulR:** relax, have coffee, draw

**DavidWe:** sounds like Tom

**PaulR:** until I can think of something

**LauraWD:** guys if I fall off it is because I've got a computer battery that is dying...would love to stay involved in this group and conversation...

**PaulR:** Peter had two glorious days of bumming around HSq

**PaulR:** Laura - would love to stay in touch

**PaulR:** if we lose you . . .

**PaulR:** [paul@fablevision.com](mailto:paul@fablevision.com)

**LauraWD:** [laura@augusthouse.com](mailto:laura@augusthouse.com) background on website

**PaulR:** cool

**PaulR:** Are people familiar with my brother Peter H. Reynolds?

**PaulR:** or FableVision?

**DavidWe:** I'm not

**PaulR:** Not sure where to begin our adventures tonight

**PaulR:** but that might be a start

**BjB** agrees

**FredK:** Not me.

**PaulR:** He is my co-navigator on the journey.

**SusanR:** Fablevision

**PaulR:** Peter left TSP about 10 years ago

**PaulR:** the first time they were bought (now owned by Scholastic)

**PaulR:** They made him sign a five year non-compete

**PaulR:** to stay out of the ed tech market

**PaulR:** to get his nest egg

**PaulR:** The funny thing is that films and books were considered 'technology'

**PaulR:** so we launched FableVision during the 5 year period

**PaulR:** and published THE NORTH STAR

**PaulR:** online version available for free

**PaulR:** <http://www.fablevision.com/northstar>

**PaulR:** <http://www.fablevision.com/northstar/read.html>

**LauraWD** left the room (signed off).

**PaulR:** Read that - and you get our philosophy

**PaulR:** And we created our own animated films

**PaulR:** that have traveled around the world

**PaulR:** been broadcast, etc.

**PaulR:** Peter is also a NY Times Best Selling author/illustrator now

**DavidWe:** That's great

**PaulR:** JUDY MOODY is the big hit

**PaulR:** if you were in 3rd grade and a girl

**PaulR:** you'd be squealing now

**DavidWe** has been in 3rd grade, but...

**PaulR** smiles

**PaulR:** His other big books are THE DOT

**PaulR:** and ISH

**DebraM** joined the room.

**DavidWe** waves to Debra

**DavidWe:** Hi, Debra. Welcome

**PaulR:** Hi Debra

**FredK:** Hi Debra

**PaulR:** At FableVision - our mission is to tell "stories that matter, stories that move"

**DavidWe:** Do you know about Edutopia, Paul?

**PaulR:** We tell stories that help people navigate their full potential

**PaulR:** Yes - great resource

**PaulR:** Peter and I were interviewed by Milton Chen

**DebraM:** This discuss[ion] sounds interesting. One thing I know about African-American students, storytelling is part of their culture

**HeatherBu** joined the room.

**PaulR:** there's a good audio file up there somewhere on that

**DavidWe** believes story-telling is part of ALL cultures

**FredK:** Our literacy council mission is to help people meet personal goals through literacy

**PaulR:** Hello Heather - welcome aboard.

**HeatherBu:** thank you. My apologies for being so late.

**PaulR:** That's great Fred.

**PaulR:** Debra - interesting.

**PaulR:** We think we should all be telling more stories

**PaulR:** listening to more stories

**DebraM:** I use storytelling for explaining concepts for all subjects.

**PaulR:** It is the oldest "storage device" known to humankind

**DavidWe:** NPR's been doing a great service by reviving the "This I Believe" series - very moving accounts

**PaulR:** I love that series David

**PaulR:** We urge children (and grown up children)

**PaulR:** to find their story

**PaulR:** and tell it,

**PaulR:** write it

**PaulR:** draw it

**PaulR:** share it

**DebraM:** Can you give me more information on the "This I Believe" series

**PaulR:** It is how we connect most deeply

**DavidWe** is looking for the web page

**PaulR:** Thanks David

**FredK . o O** ( now we are getting to the nitty gritty )

**BjB** listens to Paul

**DavidWe:** <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4538138>

**PaulR:** <http://www.fablevision.com/hewasme>

**PaulR:** I love NPR - a great example of wonderful storytelling

**PaulR:** I've been teaching for 17 years

**PaulR:** university level - at Boston College

**PaulR:** and always get my students to tune into public radio

**DavidWe** smiles

**PaulR:** it's a terrific way to hear well-crafted stories - that rely on great writing,

**PaulR:** audio, sound design

**DavidWe** agrees

**PaulR:** the little featurettes are best examples

**DebraM:** thanks for that information. I teach middle school and they like to talk, so storytelling is a way to help them learn and organize their thoughts.

**PaulR:** Our focus at FableVision is bringing stories to life

**HeatherBu** . o O ( The "driveway moments" )

**PaulR:** through animation

**DavidWe:** Also the Story Corps project:

**DavidWe:** <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4516989>

**PaulR:** on film, web, kiosk, etc.

**PaulR:** delivery platform doesn't matter to us

**PaulR:** The North Star is a good story for young and old alike

**PaulR:** to remind us to navigate a meaningful learning journey

**PaulR:** it started as a conversation with a teacher in the South

**PaulR:** who was literally in tears

**DebraM:** My students enjoy being in front of the camera

**PaulR:** because she knew what she was being asked to teach

**PaulR:** wasn't everything her kids needed



**PaulR:** The North Star helps shine light on four questions

**PaulR:** Where have you been?

**PaulR:** Where are you now?

**PaulR:** Where are you going?

**PaulR:** and most importantly . . . .

**PaulR:** Where do you WANT to be going?

**DavidWe** smiles

**PaulR:** That last one is the hardest to reconcile with the 3rd sometimes

**PaulR:** Even as adults we can feel lost

**PaulR:** "This is not the place I want to be"

**PaulR:** Learning is about finding your way.

**FredK:** We try to bring out their goals

**PaulR:** And the power of story can help us discover clues

**PaulR:** I popped a link in earlier

**PaulR:** for HE WAS ME

**PaulR:** did you see it?

**DebraM:** Can't feeling lost help to ignite the students' imagination

**PaulR:** <http://www.fablevision.com/hewasme>

**PaulR:** When we're done

**PaulR:** make some tea

**PaulR:** nestle in

**PaulR:** and watch

**PaulR:** Yes Debra

**PaulR:** as long as there are ways to help them navigate their way forward

**PaulR:** But "lost" can often times feel like frustration

**PaulR:** or failure

**PaulR:** We love "off the path" kids

**PaulR:** the ones who don't fit in

**PaulR:** or are challenged in some ways

**PaulR:** We need to let them know it will be okay

**DavidWe** nods

**PaulR:** that the "one size fits all" path isn't the only way forward

**HeatherBu:** that is so true for the middle school kids

**PaulR:** and that where a great teacher

**PaulR:** can use story to connect

**PaulR:** and guide

**DebraM:** Not if you guide them through it. This can be an very important life skill. I am going to take your advice, but first I want to investigate that web site. bye

**PaulR:** Good luck Debra

**DebraM:** Thanks

**DavidWe** waves

**PaulR:** Guidance is important

**PaulR:** a gift you can give.

**PaulR:** Let me know what you think.

**PaulR:** after you've explored.

**DebraM** left the room (signed off).

**PaulR:** We give many of our stories away for free

**PaulR:** and they've been used by teachers all over the world

**PaulR:** The North Star was turned into a musical

**PaulR:** and a 3rd grade curriculum kit

**BjB:** I don't recall if you have a link on your site to lessons, Paul?

**PaulR:** and adopted as a theme for entire schools

**SusanR:** Is there a Fablevision television series?

**PaulR:** I'm actually building a North Star Community of Practice site

**SusanR** is interested in the Kit

**PaulR:** as part of my action research project

**PaulR:** in the Pepperdine OMET program

**PaulR:** will have a place to access/share lesson plans

**DavidWe** waves to Jeff

**BjB** waves to Jeff

**FredK** waves

**HeatherBu:** I was just looking at your "Field Guide." You have some wonderful tips in there.

**PaulR:** Thanks Heather

**PaulR:** Hello Jeff

**SusanR:** Just finished watching HeWasMe

**PaulR:** We love sharing what we do

**PaulR** smiles

**PaulR:** The Dot and Ish are now both animated films too

**PaulR:** The Dot won ALA's Carnegie Medal of Excellence last year

**PaulR:** I love that story

**PaulR:** another Peter Reynolds story

**PaulR:** about a little girl who thinks she can't draw

**PaulR:** and the teacher who thinks differently

**PaulR:** The story is now in over 20 languages

**PaulR:** the Mexican gov't just bought 200,000 copies

**DavidWe:** wow

**PaulR:** for every classroom in Mexico

**DavidWe:** congratulations

**PaulR:** Thanks David

**PaulR:** We have been amazed

**HeatherBu:** I can't wait to share the library with some of my teachers...and my students!

**PaulR:** that the stories have such universal appeal

**PaulR:** but that is the power of story

**PaulR:** That's great Heather

**PaulR:** Peter is very good about writing back to students who write him

**PaulR:** his publishing site is . . .

**PaulR:** <http://www.peterhreynolds.com>

**PaulR:** Our cell split 45 years ago

**PaulR:** and we've been enjoying each other's company ever since

**PaulR:** I really admire him

**DavidWe** grins

**PaulR:** and he inspires me

**PaulR:** that's why it's hard to call what we do work

**PaulR:** it is so nourishing

**PaulR:** and fun

**PaulR:** oh -

**PaulR:** you're all invited

**PaulR:** to a BIG PARTY

**PaulR:** Sept 15th

**PaulR:** in Boston

**DavidWe:** what time?

**DavidWe** smiles

**PaulR:** We're celebrating our 10th Anniversary of FableVision

**PaulR:** and our NEW HOME . .

**BjB** . o O ( David never misses a party )

**PaulR:** at the Boston Children's Museum

**BjB:** how exciting!

**DavidWe** wouldn't want to offend the hosts

**PaulR:** We're building out the space this summer

**PaulR:** seriously - invite is open

**PaulR:** if you all like stories

**DavidWe** will put it on the calendar

**PaulR:** then you're our kind of people

**DavidWe:** Will you be at NECC in San Diego, Paul?

**PaulR:** <http://www.fablevision.com/anniversary>

**PaulR:** this link gives you free gifts

**PaulR:** to celebrate in the meantime

**PaulR:** My twin Peter will be there

**PaulR:** so it's nearly the same thing.

**DavidWe** will look for him

**PaulR** grins

**PaulR:** I'll be in L.A.

**DavidWe:** I'm doing a couple of sessions about Tapped In

**PaulR:** presenting my final research and finishing my M.A. work

**HeatherBu . o O ( Sue, I just added the Fable Library to our "Relax and Have Fun" page.  
)**

**PaulR:** FableVision will be there with a booth

**DavidWe** nods

**PaulR:** and I'm sure Peter is speaking too

**PaulR:** I'll be at NECC next year

**PaulR:** I go to many of the conferences

**BjB** needs to send David her copy of the North Star so he can get it autographed

**SusanR:** Thanks Heather

**DavidWe** will be happy to get it autographed

**PaulR:** You have a copy Bj?

**BjB** nods

**BjB:** Love it!

**SusanR:** Where is NECC next year?

**PaulR:** Yay

**PaulR:** hmm

**PaulR:** not sure

**DavidWe** . o O ( Atlanta, I think )

**BjB** hopes Paul remembers to tell David about the math connection

**PaulR:** btw, we also launched our own bookstore

**BjB** . o O ( or show him where to read about it )

**PaulR:** The Blue Bunny

**PaulR:** <http://www.dedhambluebunny.com>

**PaulR:** you can order personalized/autographed copies of Peter's books

**PaulR:** ah yes . . .

**PaulR:** Math.

**MargaretR** joined the room.

**DavidWe** waves to Margaret

**PaulR:** Hello Margaret

**DavidWe:** Hi, Margaret. Welcome

**BjB** waves to Margaret

**MargaretR:** HI

**FredK** waves

**PaulR:** I had to abandon Margaret to come over here!

**MargaretR:** I am not going to stay long

**PaulR:** do you forgive me?

**DavidWe:** Neither are we

**PaulR** smiles and blushes

**BjB:** thanks for sharing Paul with us, Margaret

**MargaretR:** I just wanted to see how our star story telling is doing

**PaulR:** When Peter was in 7th grade

**PaulR:** he was always drawing in Math class

**PaulR:** (like most classes)

**DavidWe** smiles

**PaulR:** and Mr. Matson asked him to "See me after class"

**DavidWe** listens

**PaulR:** of course the class chuckles

**PaulR:** "Reynolds is in trouble!"

**PaulR:** Mr Matson said quietly

**PaulR:** "It seems you love to draw . . .

**PaulR:** as much as I love Math"

**DavidWe** smiles

**HeatherBu** grins

**PaulR:** He asked Peter to

**PaulR:** take his Math book home

**PaulR:** and do Mr. Matson a favor

**MargaretR .** o O ( The people here might want to know that there is a great summary of a TI session that Paul did posted in the Malibu room if anyone wants to read it (linked off of the Peppedine reception) )

**PaulR:** "Find anything lesson in the book . . .

**DavidWe** nods

**PaulR:** and draw a comic book about it"



**PaulR:** So Peter took the book home

**PaulR:** incredulous that he "got off" so easy

**PaulR:** and read the book

**PaulR:** cover to cover

**PaulR:** and for the first time

**PaulR:** he saw numbers as pictures

**PaulR:** and problems as mini-stories

**PaulR:** and so drew

**PaulR:** and drew

**DavidWe . o O ( "Math Curse" )**

**PaulR:** and came back

**DavidWe:** Do you know that book, Paul?

**PaulR:** No

**PaulR:** will have to look up

**PaulR:** Mr. Matson looked at the comic book

**PaulR:** and said

**PaulR:** "Do you know what you've done?"

**PaulR:** You've made a storyboard

**DavidWe** smiles

**PaulR:** and a SB is what filmmakers use to plan a film

**PaulR:** "How would you like to turn this into an animated film?"

**PaulR:** And that's what he did.

**PaulR:** That summer

**PaulR:** he made his first animated film

**PaulR:** to teach other kids

**PaulR:** about math

**PaulR:** and that's essentially what he's been doing all his life

**DavidWe:** cool

**PaulR:** because Mr. Matson connected

**HeatherBu:** What a wonderful idea!

**PaulR:** his North Star with Peter's North Star

**DavidWe:** [http://www.txla.org/groups/tba/annotations/math\\_curse.html](http://www.txla.org/groups/tba/annotations/math_curse.html)

**PaulR:** oh - btw

**FredK** claps

**PaulR:** the filmmaker teacher

**PaulR:** was James Morrow

**PaulR:** (now a well known sci-fi author)

**PaulR:** and friends with . . .

**PaulR:** Tom Snyder

**HeatherBu:** good heavens!

**PaulR:** and THAT'S who Tom asked "Do you know any talented artists who can help me with this company I'm launching?"

**PaulR:** Pretty neat, eh?

**DavidWe** smiles

**DavidWe:** very

**PaulR:** THAT is the power

**PaulR:** of a teacher who creatively makes connections

**PaulR:** to a student's interests

**PaulR:** you can teach almost anything that way

**FredK:** . o O ( he has heart )

**PaulR:** Yes

**PaulR:** So . . . not sure how much time we have left

**PaulR:** Bj?

**DavidWe:** . o O ( -5 minutes )

**PaulR:** I invite you all to stay in touch

**PaulR:** [www.fablevision.com](http://www.fablevision.com)

**PaulR:** [paul@fablevision.com](mailto:paul@fablevision.com)

**DavidWe:** Thank you for the discussion, Paul

**PaulR:** You're welcome.

**PaulR:** We love sharing what we do

**PaulR:** and connecting

**PaulR:** with others who know the value of story

**DavidWe:** You know who Michael Dukakis is, Paul?

**HeatherBu:** Thank you, Paul. I look forward to exploring your site.

**PaulR:** and how it can transform lives.

**PaulR:** Yes - I went to France with his niece in fact. : )

**FredK:** I appreciate you and your success

**DavidWe:** . o O ( Swarthmore - class of 1955 )

**PaulR:** Thank you Fred.

**BjB:** Thank you so much for sharing, Paul. Margaret went to have dinner. She didn't want to interrupt your discussion.

**SusanR:** Thanks Paul. Lots more to explore on your site. Do you still have your adorable clip art available?

**PaulR:** yes.

**PaulR:** That's one of my favorite resources

**PaulR:** and lots of free posters

**SusanR:** I love using it on my worksheets

**PaulR:** Do you know about Stationery Studio?

**SusanR:** no I don't

**PaulR:** It's our K5 writing software

**PaulR:** using Peter's artwork

**PaulR:** to customize templates for students' writing

**PaulR:** with developmentally appropriate line styles

**PaulR:** and you can make lots of stationery with it

**PaulR:** <http://www.fablevision.com/education>

**PaulR:** Well - if anyone has particular questions

**SusanR:** Lovely!

**PaulR:** feel free to ask now

**PaulR:** or email me

**PaulR:** If there are challenges you're facing

**DavidWe** smiles

**PaulR:** that we can help with

**PaulR:** let us know

**BjB** applauds wildly and thanks Paul again for his generous sharing of his time

**PaulR:** The North Star started that way

**PaulR:** and it's touched many lives

**FredK:** good direction

**PaulR:** My pleasure Bj

**PaulR:** I really enjoyed it

**SusanR:** your stories are so touching...I think they stimulate children to write

**BjB** waves goodnight

**PaulR:** thanks Susan

**PaulR:** we hope the same for the grown up children too

**HeatherBu** smiles

**PaulR:** we want to inspire "thinking journeys"

**FredK:** hopes so to

**PaulR:** the best kind.

**PaulR:** So much more to share . . .

**DavidWe** smiles

**PaulR:** but now I'm off to read, write, blog into the night

**SusanR:** your site complements the literacy focus so emphasized these days!

**PaulR:** 2 more months until graduation

**DavidWe** waves bye to Paul

**HeatherBu:** Paul, where is your blog?

**DavidWe:** Good luck

**SusanR:** your blog..the url please

**PaulR:** ah - my current blog is w/in the Pepperdine OMET walls

**PaulR:** but I'm changing all that soon

**PaulR:** here's a sneak peak

**PaulR:** at my Community of Practice site we're building

**PaulR:** <http://www.northstarcp.org/alpha>

**DavidWe** smiles

**BjB:** we're starting a new group room in Tapped In that will have education resources including member blogs

**PaulR:** That's great

**BjB:** the room is EduSources and you are welcome to post your blog there

**BjB** . o O ( and links to FableVision )

**HeatherBu** hopes Paul will post his blog url there, when he gets a chance.

**PaulR** smiles

**PaulR:** Well - now I better!

**PaulR:** Ok folks - I'm riding off into the sunset.

**DavidWe:** ciao

**PaulR:** Blessings on you all

**PaulR:** and best of luck on your missions

**BjB:** and to you

**PaulR:** to bring the world to a better place.

**SusanR:** keep up the great work

**HeatherBu:** Thank you, Paul.

**PaulR:** Gnite - and Thank You again for having me!

**FredK** Thanks Paul

