



## OKANOGAN REGION ARTS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP ARTIST PROFILE

**Dayton Edmonds**

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**Theater/Storytelling/ Puppetry**  
All Districts

**Preferred Age/Grade level:** K-12

**Possible Curricular Ties:** History, Cultural Studies, Public Speaking

**Residency suggestions:** Storytelling: Storytelling is a living ART, but it lives in the telling of the story. Through story, we will enter into and exercise the right hemisphere of the brain, stimulating imagination and creativity. The student will experience story through seeing, hearing and becoming an intricate part of its creation. The student will learn to focus and conceptualize through the development of the story: characters, setting and theme. In the process of analysis, the student will rehearse, adjust and refine the story; discovering through reflection an interpretation for self-evaluation, and a story to present to others. The culmination of this study could be a storytelling festival, open to the community, to celebrate and integrate culture and history.

Puppets: All of the above also apply to this residence. In addition, the student will make at least one personalized puppet; younger students will create a puppet, while older students will create a companion. The student will learn to operate, control and communicate with puppets. In the process, the student will develop technique and understanding of expression and feeling with this discipline, which gets more intricate as students get older. The student will present a puppet show to share with an audience.

**Supplies, Equipment, Space, and Time Considerations:** I would like to have library access for both disciplines.

**Teaching Experience:** AIR: 2004-present, Brewster, Pateros, Virginia Grainger and North Omak Elementary Schools. From 1975 to 2000, I was a missionary for the United Methodist Church in the field of education, spending 22 years assigned to work in Okanogan County. During that time I was a guest teacher, speaker and storyteller for all the public schools, home-schooled, alternative, preschool, private schools, and the colleges that are within the county. My teaching has taken me beyond Okanogan Valley, reaching Hawaii and Alaska, around to NY, the Virgin Islands.

**Artist's Statement:** Storytelling is the basis of my life's work. All my art forms are physical manifestations of the storyteller's ability. I was initiated into the sacred art of storytelling in the summer of 1979 when a gift was given and a story received. Storytelling becomes a way of life, and the story is passed on through many mediums. The roll of the story teller is to preserve the collective memory of the community and pass it on so others may hear, see, feel, enjoy and become a part. Hear the story-learn the story- become the story- pass it on. My purpose is to tell the story and to initiate others into the sacred art. The stories I tell gently challenge people to grow.