

# Storyteller Bob Gasch

17664 45<sup>th</sup> St. SW \* Cokato, MN 55321  
320-286-2997 (Twin Cities Metro 952-476-1865)  
e-mail bcdgasch@hutchtel.net

## HISTORICAL STORIES

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN** - Stories that tell what it was like growing up in a log cabin with his family. Bob tells of Lincoln's interest in reading, the work he had to do, his schooling and the games and customs of his times.

*All Ages.*

**WE NEED A CONSTITUTION!** – This original story tells how two children, living in a land without a constitution, discover a copy of the U.S. Constitution. They use it to help create one for their homeland, A tale that helps everyone understand why our constitution was written and how it affects our daily lives.

*All Ages.*

**ZEKE THE GOLDMINER** – Tells of his adventures traveling west to the Colorado goldfields and of his success in finding gold. If time permits, a "gold rush" can be recreated, including gold panning lessons.

*Grades 3 & up.*

**CHUCKWAGON CHARLIE** – In his old cowboy hat, vest, and red kerchief, he shares tales of PECOS BILL, Charles Goodnight, the Vaqueros and other famous and not so famous cowboys who ate his biscuits, beans, and bacon.

*Grades 3 & up.*

**"ALL ABOARD," AMERICA'S TRAINS** – Ride the rails again with the stories of railroading's steaming engines, brave engineers and firemen, empire building owners, daring train robbers and Pullmans full of passengers, A trip back to the days when traveling by train was THE way to go.

*Grade 3 & up, Families, Senior Citizens.*

**OLD TIME RADIO** – Using actual recorded segments, remembers radio shows and people of the thirties, forties and fifties - - Al Jolson, Fibber McGee and Molly, Amos and Andy, Lux Radio Theater, The Charlie McCarthy, and many other shows and people.

*Grade 4 & up.*

**THE ONE ROOM COUNTRY SCHOOL** – Stories about the special kind of education that took place in these schools including getting to and from school, a typical day, the teacher and special events.

*Grade 3 & up, Families, Senior Citizens.*

**THE PONY EXPRESS** – Stories about the strong, brave and wiry young men who carried the mail from St. Joseph, Missouri, to California before the telegraph and railroad had reached across the west.

*Grade 3 & up.*

**LIFE IN A LOG CABIN** – Tales of how a pioneer family homesteads in the woods, builds their home of log, and how that house evolves over the years.

*Grade 3 & up, Families, Senior Citizens.*

**LOCAL AND REGIONAL HISTORICAL STORIES** – Bob Gasch can work with you to present stories about your community's history. He has wonderful resources for MN, CO, KS, WI, ND, SD, IA, and TX.

*All Ages.*

## MULTICULTURAL FOLKLORE

**PAUL BUNYAN** – (American & Canadian) – In wool shirt, stocking cap and logging boots, he tells his TALL tales about logging throughout North America and the adventures that he, his friends and Babe the Blue Ox have had.

*All Ages.*

**JOHNNY APPLESEED** – (American) – Barefoot, tattered clothes and a cooking pan hat, he describes his work providing apples for folks in the wilderness and his caring for all living things.

*All Ages.*

**JOHN CLEMENS: MARK TWAIN'S FATHER** - (American) – In his white shirt, old-fashioned tie, black vest and pants he tells of his son's upbringing in Hannibal, MO. You hear of the adventures Sam had and how they were later written about in the books Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn.

*Grade 3 & up.*

**ROBINSON CRUSOE** – (English) – Stories of his being shipwrecked on a deserted island and learning to make use of what he could find to live an interesting and comfortable life alone.

*Grade 3 & up.*

**ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES** – (Arabian) – Ali Baba with his turban, open neck shirt, and flowing pants, tells of his discovery of the hidden riches of the forty thieves and how a brave and cunning woman saved him from being killed by the thieves.

*Grade 3 & up.*

**SINBAD THE SAILOR** – (Arabian) – With his turban, open neck shirt, flowing pants and big boots, he tells of his daring adventures from one of his 7 voyages.

*Grade 3 & up.*

**STORIES THAT MUST NOT DIE** – (Hispanic) – Selected stories from the Juan Sauvageau collection and other sources of Rio Grande Valley folklore about love, kindness, helping others, pride, greed and unexplainable events.

*All Ages.*

**ISAAC SINGER'S CHILDREN'S STORIES** – (Jewish) – Stories from the Noble Prize winning author, that he wrote especially for children, about wise men, storytellers, horses, carp, confused cats and dogs and other bits of wisdom and wonder.

*All Ages.*

**THE STORY OF DR. SEUSS** – (American) – How Theodor Seuss Geisel's upbringing, his advertising cartoons and his desire to make learning to read fun, helped create the Dr. Seuss stories we all love. Parts of his stories may be read.

*All Ages.*

**AESOP'S FABLES** – (Ancient) – Fables about common animals who show us simple bits of wisdom.

*All Ages.*

**LEPRECHAUN LORE** – (Irish) – Tales of fun and mischief about Ireland's famous little people.

*All Ages*

---

## **WORKSHOPS AND INSERVICES**

### **STORYTELLING: THE MAGICAL READING MOTIVATOR** –

A workshop for teachers, librarians and parents in which everyone learns how to be a storyteller and how to use their stories to motivate children to read and become more aware of the world around them.

**STORYTELLING AND THE WRITING PROCESS** – Imagination and multi-sensory description are two of the keys to good writing. They are also key ingredients in well-told stories. Learn how to use storytelling to improve the quality of your students' writing.

**"THE READING ROOM": CHALLENGES FACING LIBRARIANS TODAY** – Librarians are challenged by parents, educators and especially children to make the library a more exciting, interesting and useful place. Though role modeling, sharing ideas and group work, this inservice will provide practical ideas to meet today's challenges.

**READING AND TELLING STORIES TO CHILDREN OF THE MULTI-MEDIA AGE** – Children are captivated by the fast paced action and excitement of TV, video games and computers. How can parents and teachers compete as they read books and tell stories to today's children? It's easy! Learn simple and effective techniques for reading and telling stories that will enchant your children.

**HOW THE ONE ROOM COUNTRY SCHOOL FITS IN TODAY'S CLASSROOM** – Teaching in a one room country school during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century presented many challenges. Those teachers created many ways to meet the wide ranging needs of their students. Learn many of these forgotten teaching strategies and how to use them in today's classroom.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

**THE GREEN MAN** - Starting out as an arrogant hunter who thinks he can dominate nature, he is soon embarrassed into hiding among the leaves and learns to protect and preserve the forest and its creatures. *All ages.*

**A DAY WITHOUT MATH** – A student wishes there was no math so where would be no math test. The wish comes true and the world becomes chaotic.

*All ages.*

## FAMILY LORE

**THE SEASONS AT GRANDPA’S AND GRANDMA’S FARM** – Tales of rural traditions and the life-style of an old fashioned family farm during the various seasons. Planting the seeds and milking the cows, the big summer picnics, the long hours of work during harvest time or the joys of a horse drawn sleigh ride may be featured. Stories will focus on the current season.

*All ages.*

**CAMPFIRE TALES** – A variety of stories: some spooky, some nature lore, some real tall from Bob Gasch’s many years of sitting at campfires around the world. Great for your outdoor activities or environmental education classes.

*All ages.*

**LUCKY LARS’ LEGENDARY LAKE LORE** – Wearing his bobber collection on his “always catch something” hat, Lars tells of his adventures boating, water skiing and trying to catch “the big one” on Minnesota’s lakes and rivers.

*Grade 3 & up, Families, Senior Citizens.*

**THE BEST BIKE IN THE WHOLE WORLD** - An original story about how a brother and sister progress from their tricycles, to riding two wheelers, to customizing their bikes to make each the “best bike in the whole world.”

*All ages.*

**“ARE WE THERE YET?”** – The adventures on a family summer vacation, told using songs and stories. Includes games played as the miles pass by, backseat bickering, cooking out over a fire, and spending nights sleeping in a tent as a family travels across the country.

*All ages.*

**“IS THE WATER WET?”** – Original stories and songs about a brother and sister spending the summer in pools, lakes and rivers, learning to swim, going off the diving board, playing water games and looking for sea monsters and mermaids.

*All ages.*

**THE WIZARD AND THE GREAT WISH MACHINE** – A story that helps everyone understand their wishes and shows them with, a little magic and their own Great Wish Machine, how they can make their wishes come true.

*Pre-school – Grade 4.*

**“HEY BUNGLES”: NOT SO TALL TALES** – A combination of stories about growing up on one of Minnesota’s famous lakes, visiting an interesting collection of relatives in “the East”, and ideas and techniques on how everyone can preserve and tell their own family stories.

*All ages.*

-----  
**“Our students were captivated by Bob and his stories.”**  
**“His face and voice have such a range of expression.”**  
**“He make Paul Bunyan, my favorite character, come to life.”**  
**“Bob reawoke my imagination and reminded me of the magic of storytelling.”**

**5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher**  
**Public librarian**  
**Parent of 5 year old**  
**Elementary Principal**

Workshops and Inservices  
 \$175/hr  
 Artist in Residence  
 \$400/day

-----  
 These are some of the reactions from people who have heard the storytelling of Bob Gasch. Since 1971, he has been visiting schools, libraries and organizations from Alaska to Louisiana and Colorado to Northern Ireland. His presentations have been helping people become more aware of and interested in history, reading, writing and storytelling.

Bob’s background includes:

- Classroom teaching with Kindergarteners, first graders and special needs students.
- Over 25 years of working with the YMCA’s camping program here and in Northern Ireland for which he has received both organization and community awards for his outstanding contributions.
- Being a featured storyteller at Ireland’s National Storytelling Festival
- Keynote speaker at the Colorado Educational Media Association’s 1993 State Convention
- Being on Historic Murphy’s Landing (Shakopee, MN) board of trustees
- Fulfilling various responsibilities with the Western Hennepin Pioneers Association (Long Lake, MN)
- Owning a Colorado gold mine and belonging to the Clear Creek County Metal Mining Association (Idaho Springs, CO).
- Membership in various regional and national storytelling organizations
- Adding to his eclectic children’s book collection
- Collecting copies of radio shows from the 30’s, 40’s, and 50’s
- Rescuing and restoring historic log cabins and timber from barns, including his 1860 hand hewn oak, log cabin home.

**Fees:** Full day (6-7 performances) \$450  
 Half day (3 performances) \$250  
 Single performance \$150

} **(A mileage cost will be added to fee)**

## ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

**STORYTELLER IN RESIDENCE** - All students listen to, create and learn to tell stories as Bob works with classroom groups and their teachers. The process enhances self-confidence, reading and language arts skills, creativity, and public speaking talents. Students also participate in a culminating storytelling program. Length of residency depends on the number of classrooms involved.

*All ages.*

**FAMILY LORE** - Students learn to collect, record and retells stories from their families. They will develop story starting questions, practice recording techniques, produce a book of their family’s stories and retell one of the stories at the culminating program. Length of residency depends on the number of classrooms involved.

*Grade 2 & up.*

**PRODUCING OLD TIME RADIO SHOWS** – Students listen to a selection of old radio shows, learn how to develop scripts, produce sound effects and record their own productions. Shows can focus on historical drama, comedy, adventure, drug education, or family relationships. Length of residency depends on the number of classrooms involved.

*Grade 4 & up.*

## HOLIDAY STORIES

**ELMER THE ENORMOUS ELF (Christmas)** – Wearing his red socks, green knickers, yellow suspenders, string of bells, red shirt and stocking cap, he tells of his problems learning to make toys with the other elves in Santa’s workshop and how he found his special talent.

*Preschool – Grade 4*

**A PIONEER CHRISTMAS** – Stories about the simple pioneer holiday traditions of the 1800’s frontier and how they used homemade, natural decorations and gifts.

*All ages.*

**A PILGRIM: THE STORY OF SAMUEL FULLER (Thanksgiving)** – Stories about Bob Gasch’s (multi-great) grandfather who was the doctor for the pilgrims during their voyage and first years in America.

*All ages.*

**HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS: STORIES OF THEIR ORIGINS** - Trick or treating, pumpkin carving, owls, bats, flying broomsticks are some of the traditional parts of our Halloween celebrations. Why do we use these symbols and how did this holiday originally start? These stories will explain this and more.

*All ages.*

**WHO WAS ST. VALENTINE? (Valentine’s Day)** – Who was this person and why we honor him is the focus of this story. Explanations of hearts, Cupid, candy and flowers are also included.

*All ages.*

**AN OLD FASHIONED 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY** - Hear stories about how our grandparents and great grandparents celebrated our country’s independence with picnics, games, races and fireworks.

*All ages.*

## Scheduling

- SCHOOLS** - Program Length: 30-45 min.  
 - Each grade level can request a different program.  
 - Programs can be successfully adapted for special needs students.  
 - Setting: a place where students can sit comfortable, see and hear while Bob is standing or sitting.

### **LIBRARIES and ORGANIZATIONS**

- Program Length: 30 – 45 min.
- Setting: a place where the audience can sit comfortable, see and hear while Bob is standing or sitting.

### **WORKSHOPS and INSERVICES**

- Length: 1 hour to full day – all sessions will be customized for the group’s needs.

- Setting: a place where the participants can sit comfortably, see, hear and work in groups while Bob is standing or sitting.
- Equipment: a sound system will be needed for large groups. Overhead or slide projectors may also be needed.