

# Florence Nightingale: A Monologue to Teach and Inspire

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## The Power of Story

- Storytelling, the bedrock of every culture, is one of the oldest arts in the world (Schwartz, 2012). In recent years, scholars have studied the power of storytelling and studies suggest stories can:
- Raise consciousness, influence attitudes, and inspire
- Help students connect interrelated facts
- Engage students in learning
- Enhance community within the classroom
- Improve listening, critical thinking, and empathy

## Creating the Story

- Organize scenes to include a rising action, conflict, climax, and resolution this will help keep the listener engaged. For example: Florence returns to tell future nurses about her time in Crimea, her research, and development of nursing schools. She takes them through time telling them about nursing's most influential people (Rising action). She shares the current state of health around the globe (Conflict). She tells them what they can do to make a difference (Falling action). She inspires them saying, "In 1880, I wrote it would be 100-150 years before well educated nurses would arrive to improve healthcare, by my calculations, you are that generation. I lit the lamp, now YOU ignite the torch!" (Resolution).



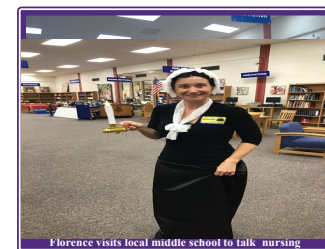
Costume made with lace, old bridesmaid dress, and sweater



Florence Nightingale checks in with nursing students



Visiting St. Thomas Hospital, London, England



Florence visits local middle school to talk nursing



Florence speaking at Scout out Nursing



Florence meets nurses around the world

## Engaging the Audience

- To promote active listening and audience participation:
  - Speak slowly with alternating rhythm
  - Walk around
  - Use props, hands, and facial gestures
  - Pause to ask students questions before revealing the rest of the story

## Can You Be A Storyteller?

- You may not see yourself as a storyteller, but you already are!
- Teachers have been storytellers for over a millennia, it's just time to perfect the skills innately yours.
- To brush off the cobwebs:
- Watch professional storytellers and take notes.
- Practice your rhythm by reading storybooks out loud.
- Get yourself a prop box.
- Weave a story through your lecture, it's okay to make and use notecards.
- Practice, students enjoy seeing you do something slightly different.

## Acknowledgment / References

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