



Enliven Your Holiday Season through Story Sharing

Many of us will gather with family and friends over the next few months to celebrate the friendships and blessings we have. One way to make this holiday special would be to make a “storytelling quilt”. A “storytelling-quilt” is made up of “story patches,” little remembrances of experiences, people and places associated with holidays past that, when shared, make a storytelling quilt in the imaginations of the listeners. Spellbinders encourages you to try this or some other storytelling activity to wrap your family and friends in warm memories through shared stories.

When everyone is gathered in a circle around the table, fireplace or whatever gathering room is in your house, light a candle and say something like: “Let’s create a holiday storytelling quilt as a gift that will warm us for all our holidays to come.” You will be amazed at how simply holding a lit candle draws people’s attention and silence.

Explain that the quilt will be made of story patches...little memories ignited by story sparks. Select a question from this list of “sparks” and pass the candle to the first person who has a remembrance ignited by the spark. The candle is then passed to others who want to add a story patch from the same spark. Continue giving other sparks until the time set aside for the activity is over.

Holiday Story Sparks

- ◆ Describe one of the places where all or part of a memorable holiday celebration took place...a kitchen, living room, hotel, church, etc.
- ◆ Describe a person you associate with the holiday celebrations of your childhood...what did they look like, smell like, feel like?
- ◆ Is there one holiday gathering or event from your childhood that stands out in your memory over all others? Describe it as vividly as you can.
- ◆ What was the most wonderful holiday gift you ever got?
- ◆ What was the most memorable gift you ever gave?
- ◆ What was the most disappointing gift you gave or got?
- ◆ Describe a favorite holiday food dish. Who made it? What were the ingredients?
- ◆ Did you ever have a holiday cooking disaster? Explain it.

Suggestions for ways to close the story-quilt circle

- ◆ Everyone joins hands and spends a few moments visualizing the story quilt that has been created in their imaginations. This is an ongoing gift that transcends time and material presents.
- ◆ Each person draws the name of someone present from a box and tells all the ways that person is a gift to the family or circle of friends.
- ◆ Give a small wrapped gift, such as a bell, dreidel or ornament, as a remembrance or spark of the story quilt that you have made together.